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The Guardian

INTERNATIONAL

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

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The chaos behind the cameras

Magnum force

G2 with European weather

Growing up with Molly Parkin

My mother, the alcoholic

Parents, G2 pages 8/9

The aid issue

Clare Short overseas

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High ideals, hard choices

Britain can be a beacon to the world, says Blair

Michael White
Political Editor

TONY BLAIR yesterday launched a high-minded appeal to the British people to cast aside the cynicism and mediocrity of the postwar era and join a selfless national renewal under the banner of "The Giving Age".

He used his first speech to a Labour conference since sweeping to power to promise and warn voters that they had elected "a government of high ideals and hard choices". It would push through the changes needed to turn Britain into "a model 21st century nation, a beacon to the world", he predicted.

"Modernisation is not an end in itself: it is for a purpose. Modernisation is not the enemy of justice, but its ally. Progress and justice are the two rocks upon which the New Britain is raised to the heights," Mr Blair told 2,000 people in the Brighton Centre and the far wider TV audience — to whom much of his speech was addressed.

There was a tough economic message beneath the surface of his 6,000-word text, coupled with a social conservatism that elevated discipline and duty, denounced industrial conflict — "partnership is the key" — and elevated family life.

The aim was for a compassionate society. "But it is compassion with a hard edge because a strong society cannot be built on soft choices."

Mr Blair spoke of a huge social problem in re-establishing family life as the bedrock of society. He said: "Attitudes have changed. The world has changed. But I am a modern man leading a modern country and this is a modern crisis."

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, is expected to chair a new ministerial committee to strengthen the family, and Social Security Minister Frank Field's radical plans for ending welfare dependency and curbing state involvement in pensions — the subject of growing tension in Whitehall — will produce a green paper before Christmas.

"The new welfare state must encourage work, not dependency," Mr Blair warned.

The conference, which gave him a prolonged but restrained standing ovation when he finished, remained silent during the more politically sensitive passages. Yet his insistence that fear of crime is a threat to the civil liberties of women and pensioners received one of the loudest cheers of the day.

Mr Blair's determination that a Labour government will serve two full terms shone through the speech. He again warned against complacency — and revealed an agenda much bigger than a celebration of Labour's 179-seat Commons majority.

Last night William Hague, who faces his first party conference as Tory leader in Blackpool next week, criticised Mr Blair's talk of "the giving age" — claiming that voters had already given a lot in extra taxes since May 1.

Lavishly praising "the richness of the British character" in his opening passage, the Prime Minister called it "creative, compassionate, outward looking. Old British values, but a new British confidence. We can never be the biggest, we may never again be the mightiest. But we can be the best."

He used the word "beacon" 14 times, almost as often as he invoked "hard choices."

There were also hard nuggets of policy development in the hour-long performance. Mr Blair rattled off a list of reforms which his ministers had either set in train or implemented since election day — ranging from the handgun ban and devolution to tax changes and the Northern Ireland peace process.

He also announced new initiatives, including a target of 500,000 more people in higher and further education by 2002 and more low-cost access to the Internet for school children — for as little as £1 per pupil in annual telephone costs.

There was a huge cheer when Mr Blair said he would reverse Tory plans to halve the £83 million budget for teaching English as a second language in schools.

As the Prime Minister moved towards his peroration he linked Labour values with "the best of British values" and called on the entire country to make a supreme national effort to help modernise it.

He said: "There is room for all the people in New Britain and there is a role for all the people in its creation. Believe in us as much as we believe in you. Give just as much to our country as we intend to give, give your all. Make this the giving age."

Such a fervent appeal for national unity and generosity of purpose to replace cynicism and fear of change had echoes of President John Kennedy's celebrated inaugural address in 1961.

For a party leader who had just won a historic landslide Mr Blair's speech was notably light on triumphalism, but it was heavy on high-minded ambition, almost religious in tone and decidedly low-key.

Labour at Brighton, page 5; Leader comment, page 8; Jonathan Freedland, page 9

Tony Blair yesterday: 'Give just as much to our country as we intend to give. Give your all' PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN ARGLES

Main points

- Target of 500,000 extra students in higher and further education by 2002
- To restore cash for extra teaching for children whose first language is not English
- To provide more cash for school repairs
- To create a government committee to strengthen policies supporting families
- To create 10 specially-funded health action zones
- To build a new hospital in Greenwich, south-east London, using private finance, on top of the 14 already pledged
- To publish a White Paper on "Simple Government" to cut bureaucracy

Buzz words

Tony Blair's 5,800-word speech was strong on patriotic buzz-words.
Britain or British got 53 mentions, country 31 (up from 18 two years ago), and nation 19.
The message was not quite as new (33 mentions against 37 in 1996). Labour featured 19 times. Socialism didn't rate a mention this year, though it got one in 1995. Community scored one (down from six), but people continued to do well with 44.
The curiously antiquated-sounding beacon entered the charts for the first time this year with eight mentions.
Choice — a great Thatcherite favourite — figured 11 times, but on all but two occasions Mr Blair stuck the adjective hard in front of it.
We was the favourite pronoun (200); you scored 39; I 75 and me only eight.
Other in-words: world 27, modern 21, change 16, give/giving 16, vision 12, best 12, reform 12.
Out-words: unions two, equality one, nationalisation none.

Choice words

If the dream he articulated yesterday is to come true, Tony Blair needs to start sharing the spotlight. After all, like the man said, this is the Giving Age.
Jonathan Freedland, page 9

Mr Blair walked on to the music of Saint-Saëns, specifically the part used as the theme of Babe. This is the popular film about a shy, talking piglet who learns to round up flocks of docile, disciplined sheep. Just a coincidence, of course.
Simon Hoggart, page 5

Tony Blair: turning leadership into an art form

Commentary

Hugo Young

POLITICAL leaders are either engineers or artists, the calculating mechanic or the elusive magician, and almost every one of the present generation, all over the world, falls into the former category. It's their destiny to grapple with the complexities of survival, surrounded by problems that offer no apparent triumphs. Engineers are painstaking and worthy and, like John Major, they invariably fall.

No party in the world is more smoothly engineered than New Labour. Tony Blair's speech yesterday attested to the precision of the programme and the benchmark-testing which, in every particular, it expects to be judged by. The check-lists are out, the market-researching is incessant, and there's no such thing as a loose end in the blueprint.

Mr Blair ran through the accomplishments so far, to show that the greatest election-fighting machine on Earth is nothing if not measured in its conduct. It arrived at a scene of chaos, on which it is imposing order. Every week produces new targets, deep studies, and quite a few hard-edged decisions. No subject lacks its dedicated inquiry-team, its New Labour logicians who know the answer: and the leader yesterday was the spokesman who had worked on his speech for weeks.

Yet the special brilliance of Mr Blair, we're discovering in power, is that he's not a mere engineer. He's very calculating but, at bottom, he's more oblique, more mysterious, less decipherable than the check-list makes you think. He is, in other words, an artist, perhaps the Franklin Roosevelt of our age. Gore Vidal wrote of Roosevelt's "inspired, patternless arabesques ... artfully dodging this way and that", the furthest cry from the kind of politician doggedly trying and failing, Major-like, to make it all add up.

Mr Blair wants it to add up. New Labour is big on figures, the party of prudence and accountancy. More gleaming targets emerged yesterday. All 32,000 of Britain's schools are promised computers, software, competent computer teachers and a near-free hook-up to the Internet by 2002. Literacy and numeracy must accelerate at compound rates by the same date. Families must get back together, schoolchildren stop swearing and spitting, teenagers be deterred from producing 100,000 pregnancies a year.

The speech could be called in large part a Tory speech, putting words round Tory concepts like duty and ambition, except that no Conservative politician could utter them without being laughed off the stage, as they were in May. Mr Major tried it with his back-to-basics, but nothing he said was ever taken seriously. Mr Blair's speech often came over like a sermon, but it exuded a sincerity that excused its loftiness.

He has appropriated all decent British values as New Labour values. The equation works out perfectly. The party's make-over is an image-maker's dream, its most stunning element the capture by Labour of a reputation as the only party of the nation. Mr Blair's litany of British greatness, a recitation Mr Major also often tried, wasn't stitched together in desperation but was the appeal of a new man trying to make the British raise their sights and their game.

But this is where the artistry took over, the patternless arabesques began to appear. For the programme, in truth, is less schematic than the sound-bite merchants and headline managers pretend. Mr Blair is a purveyor of mood and feeling at least as much as of blueprints, an instructor in the general need for change rather than a precise guide to the changes that will one day make him enemies. This is the post-Rooseveltian New Deal — he used the term — whose shape cannot really be foretold.

Thus, there will be hard choices but, as yet, only limited categories of people required to make them: bad teachers, single mothers compelled to turn up at the jobcentre, doctors who back off from the new Health Action Zones. Absolutely nobody is yet nominated for pain as a result of the leader's passionate commitment to action against global warming: the speech was canvassed as a major environmental statement, but here it was a black hole.

Welfare reform is a bigger commitment, but the engineers have got nowhere near doing their sums. We must reconsider state provision, end dependency, produce a new future built round "stakeholder pensions", but we do not yet know quite how. Still less are we clear how this will be reconciled with the fairer society — "progress and justice" — that Mr Blair promises to devote his life to. We must be leaders

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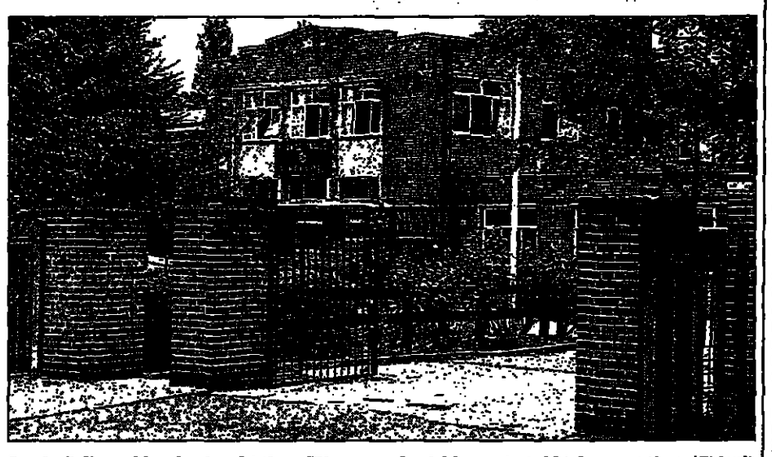
Carter Street in Allenton, Derby, where Kelly Yeomans (below) and her family lived in a virtual state of siege from bullies, who also taunted Kelly at her school (below right) PHOTOGRAPHS: GREGOR McMURTRIE

Kelly, bullied to death, aged 13

Martin Wainwright visits a neighbourhood in shock over the suicide of a teenager who could take no more taunts from gangs of boys 'out for a laugh'

'They dumped her trainers in the bin at school. Our mam gave her a favourite t-shirt and that went into the bin too. Someone put salt in her food . . .'

Sarah, Kelly's sister



KELLY Yeomans made her lonely arrangements with a bottle of painkillers after falling, along with her family, into the fatal role of easy meat for a gang of bullies.

Tormented at school, where she only left PE lessons in her games kit when everyone else had gone, the puppy-fat 13-year-old gave up hope when even her home failed to provide a safe haven.

Two days before she died, the council-owned semi off Derby's ring road was plastered with eggs and margarine, in a cruel mockery of cake making, while her persecutors — boys aged 13 to 16 — shouted abuse about lard and fat.

Up in the front bedroom the family keeps a favourite ornament, a large and elaborate glass fish. Kelly's mother, Julie, alternating yesterday between fond memories and complete despair, said: "Kelly was cowering in there when a block of margarine came flying in through the window. It landed right on our fish."

A smear of yellow margarine was still streaked on the half-rendered brickwork of the house as Mrs Yeomans described what amounted to a short-lived siege.

She said: "It was after that Kelly told us, 'Mam and dad, it's nothing to do with you but I can't stand it. I'm going to take an overdose.' "

Police began interviewing a series of youths and their parents on the Allenton estate as preparations for an inquest got under way. "Everyone knows who they're seeing," said Hazel, Caroline and a string of other neighbours calling with flowers, cards and a big envelope for the street collection they had arranged.

"The trouble was, these were the only ones in Carter Street who took it, didn't come out and say: 'You lot — piss off,' " said Hazel, a kindly woman who comforted Mrs Yeomans as a colour photo of Kelly, smiling shyly behind her specs, prompted tears. "They knew they could have what they called their fun and get away with it."

A 16-year-old boy, hanging about on the corner of Flint Street and Carter Street, where the Yeomans have lived for 12 years, agreed that the gang had been "out for a laugh".

He said: "I don't think they'd a clue it could lead to something like this. I've heard they went to say they're really sorry to the family, but they're scared because of the police calling round."

Like Allenton itself, a mostly neat estate with privately owned houses scattered about and a daily file of suited commuters walking through to the offices at the Rolls Royce works, Kelly was not a friendless and abandoned misfit.

She had her own circle at grant-maintained Merrill College lower school, including Marie Porter, a 15-year-old blonde unlikely to get shouts of "fatty" or "smelly" from boys.

"I think I was her best friend," said Marie, bringing her own card and flowers. "We tried to help her over the bullying she got. She didn't talk about it much but they didn't let her alone, did they, Sarah?" she added, as Kelly's older sister walked up. "They had it in for your family."

Sarah, who is 16, nodded and listed some of Kelly's regular ordeals. "They dumped her trainers in the bin at school. Our mam gave her a favourite t-shirt and that went into the bin too. Someone put salt in her food and she hated trying to get away from PE without being seen."

Kelly had also seen less of another group of loyal friends as work at the 1,000-strong college had taken more of her time over the past year. She had been a regular visitor to elderly patrons of the Salvation Army centre on Allenton where she also played the tambourine in the band.

"She was a lovely girl, always wanting to help us all," said Ada Dodsworth, aged 75, a regular. The Sally Ann's local major, Pamela Nott, said: "Everyone who knew her spoke of her so warmly."

Similar strong feelings came from the Yeomans' neighbours, calling in a steady stream to comfort Sarah, Julie and her husband Ivan, a former Rolls Royce worker who tried in vain to wake Kelly for school on Monday morning. But the sympathy was mixed with resignation about effective ways to help a "picked-on" target.

Patricia Russell, from Flint Street, who offered to take the children in for the night after Julie appeared in tears on her doorstep after the last attack, said: "I told her the only answer in the end was to get the council in and start proceedings for harassment. Otherwise it just wasn't going to stop, ever."

Last Friday's attack on the house, the latest in an intermittent series of incidents stretching back nearly three years, ended when police were called — the gang melting away just before the patrol car turned off the ring road into Carter Street. But the willingness of neighbours to protect their own homes, by telling the youths where to go, had never extended to fighting back on behalf of others.

Four doors down from the stricken family, a yellow window bill in a pensioner's bungalow reading "This property is protected by the Community Watch Patrol" gives the false impression of neighbourhood action. "Oh, that's the council. It's one of their empty properties and they keep an eye on them," said another Carter Street resident. "Local people aren't going to go that far in tackling gangs like this. They know that they or their kids or their houses could be the next target."

Derbyshire police said yesterday that the inquiry was concentrating on a small number of juveniles and could take some time. "It isn't something we want to rush into," said Det Insp Mark Cheetham. "We're interviewing everyone in the surrounding streets and also offering support to the family."

Governors at Merrill College and its principal, Mike Shaw, are also examining anti-bullying measures although the school said that Kelly had not passed on her concerns to the staff.

Derby's housing director, Hilary Keenan, said full support would be offered to the family, including rehousing if that was what they wished.

But the Yeomans' neighbours are hoping to persuade the family to stay. Adding some more coins to her street collection, Hazel said: "They have got good friends round here and we think it's disgusting what they've been through."

Paris smog alert forces car ban

Alex Duval Smith in Paris

PUPILS have been told to stay in classrooms at breaktime, cars have been curbed and public transport is free in Paris today after high air pollution yesterday prompted drastic action.

The measures, which include a ban on cars with even-numbered registration plates, and strict speed limits, have never before been applied in the French capital or its suburbs.

They were announced yesterday afternoon after two weeks of sun and no wind pushed nitrogen dioxide levels to their highest point for two years, and the top of the Eiffel Tower became clouded by a grey-brown smog.

The mayor of Paris, Jean Tiberi, said the measures would remain in force until weather conditions changed sufficiently to avoid a repeat of the level three alert reached yesterday. If pollution does not fall today, cars with odd-numbered plates will be banned tomorrow. Permission to drive will alternate daily after that if need be.

Taxis and cars containing three people or more are exempt, as are delivery vans, hearses, emergency vehicles and those running on liquefied petroleum gas or electricity.

The measures, which became law last spring, are coupled with free travel on buses, the Metro and the RER suburban railway. Traffic wardens have been ordered not to ticket cars parked in residential areas. The speed limit has been reduced to 60kph (37mph) in Paris and 110kph (68mph) on motorways in Greater Paris.

An environment ministry spokeswoman said drivers breaching the alternate traffic rule would not be fined today but asked to park their cars and walk.

AirParif, which monitors air quality in the French capital, said pollution had reached level three and that conditions were creating "a very stable atmosphere preventing the dispersion of polluting agents".

Level three is a European standard with a threshold of 360 microgrammes of nitrogen dioxide per cubic metre. The standards are determined according to measurements of nitrogen dioxide, ozone and nitrous oxide. Level three is the highest.

It was last recorded in Paris in December 1995 when a transport strike prompted many Parisians to use their cars. According to Philippe Jacob, a spokesman for the SNCF railway network, many commuters never went back to public transport.

Polanski 'has deal on US sex case'

Roman Polanski: fear of jail led to flight from court

Christopher Read in Los Angeles

THE fugitive film director Roman Polanski may return to Los Angeles after nearly 20 years abroad to face punishment for having sex with a 13-year-old girl, a television station has reported.

The most important part of an alleged deal between his lawyer, prosecutors and a judge is that the 63-year-old Polish-born auteur does not serve time. It was fear of imprisonment that led Polanski to flee the country in January 1978 rather than attend sentencing in a Santa Monica court. He has a French passport and has lived mostly in France with his wife the actress Emmanuelle Seigneur.

The judge at the time, Laurence Rittenband, who has since died, was believed to have been outraged about the case. Polanski admitted having sexual intercourse with the girl after giving her sedatives and champagne while he photographed her in a hot tub for a French magazine at the home of the actor Jack Nicholson.

By admitting unlawful intercourse, Polanski avoided facing five other charges including raping and drugging the girl. The victim, now a mother of three living in Hawaii with her farmer husband, still says she was raped, but in 1994 she agreed to intercede on Polanski's behalf to help him out of exile from Hollywood.

Polanski has directed well-received films including Knife in the Water in 1961, Rosemary's Baby in 1968, Chinatown in 1974, Tess in 1980, and Bitter Moon in 1992. But his career has not fulfilled his early promise and critics believe this is partly because he has been unable to work in the United States.

In Tess, for the adaptation of Thomas Hardy's 1891 novel Tess of the d'Urbevilles, he had to film in Brittany rather than Dorset and use a mock-up of Stonehenge. Had he gone to Britain he would have been arrested and deported to the US.

The possible deal for Polanski, reported on a Los Angeles television station, was not confirmed. A spokeswoman for the district attorney's office said only: "Polanski is a fugitive from the court."

His lawyer, Douglas Dalton, was unavailable for comment, and the original prosecutor, Roger Gunson, declined to discuss the report. Mr Gunson, Mr Dalton and Judge Larry Fidler are said to have met secretly last December and January.

Tony Blair: turning leadership into an art

Continued from page 1

in Europe, but we're no clearer about how this ambition can co-exist with staying outside Europe's biggest project.

An old-fashioned mechanic would be bothered by these lacunae. Jimmy Carter or Ted Heath would have laboured to fill them, before getting out the message. Like Mr Major, they wanted everything laboriously pinned down, an impossible dream. The artist surfs above and beyond them, preaching change as an end in itself, exalting hard choice-making as a virtuous way of life without yet demanding pain. He doesn't quite say, with Roosevelt, that we have nothing to fear except fear itself, but he does say that on May 1 "fear itself was defeated".

I think he genuinely does not know the answers to some of these large questions. New Labour is not always so clear and sure as it likes to seem. Its leader has a vision of the country he wants to see, but he's holding quite a lot back about how it might materialise.

What he did yesterday was start getting the country ready for events the election did not prepare it for. He is the supreme politician of mood, and behind the exercise of this winning talent he has some iron purposes, even though he cannot yet explain how he will fulfil them. I think artful dodging will be as important as the schematic print-out, as he starts persuading the nation to accept the discomforts and imperfections that accompany serious change. Meanwhile, rated at 93 per cent positive, he stands where neither mechanic nor artist has ever stood before.

Hard Edged

NewStatesman WHAT'S GOING ON

CONTRIBUTORS INCLUDE: MARY RIDDELL, JOHN LLOYD, JONATHAN COE, STEVE RICHARDS, LAURIE TAYLOR, HUNTER DAVIES, CAROLE MORIN, ANDREW BILLEN, DARCUS HOWE, WILL SELF, JANE ROBINS.
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California Summer brings show to life

Review

Michael Billington

Maddie
Lyric, Shaftesbury Avenue

MADDIE is a new British musical which has made it from Salisbury Playhouse to the West End with the help of much puffing from a rival paper. But it is not journalistic chauvinism that makes me declare that, in spite of an authentic star performance from the exotic Summer Rognlie, it is a show which promises more than it finally delivers.

Much has been made of Maddie's British origins. In fact, it is based on a novel by Jack Finney, who originated Invasion of the Body Snatchers, is set in San Francisco and has an ersatz American feel. At its best, the British musical was an expression of indigenous values and vastly different from its Broadway counterpart. Now it seems virtually identical.

But at least Maddie has an original narrative twist. It is the story of a museum curator, Nick, who becomes so obsessed with a peroxided 1920s starlet who died young that she is summoned back to life and invades the body of his wife, Jan. Possession becomes nine-tenths of the show with Nick increasingly torn between the exuberantly supernatural Maddie, desperate for another crack at fame, and his mutinous and understandably vexed spouse. No prizes for guessing which he finally chooses.

There are echoes of Blithe Spirit (the battle between the quick and the dead) and Damn Yankees (the contest between worldly success and domestic bliss). But the book, by Shaun McKenna and Steven Dexter, keeps the plot spinning and Stephen Keeling's music switches neatly between periods even if it succumbs to the declamatory, breast-baring showbiz anthem ("I'll Be A Star") that is the curse of the modern musical.

Rognlie, the stunning Californian newcomer who plays the divided heroine, has the toothiest of grins, great legs, a fine voice and the ability to switch in a second from the manically egotistic Maddie to the jealous Jan. She gives the show its sex appeal and its emotional drive and one just hopes Summer's lease doesn't have too short a date.

Martin Connor's production, after a rough start, eventually settles down. But, although it is good to find a new writing team in the West End, I pray that their next musical will seek its source in local life rather than looking longingly across the Atlantic.

This review appeared in some editions yesterday.

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Think again, French philosophers

He may look deep, but the works of Gilles Deleuze are 'stuffed with technical terms used out of context, and with no apparent logic', claim the authors of Impostures Intellectuelles

Euclidean, Spinozist or existentialist? Er, no. It's simply a load of old tosh

Jon Henley in Paris

ONLY in France do post-modern structuralists and relativist post-structural modernists become television stars. Only in Paris can people seriously state their profession as thinker. And only on the Left Bank could a slim but plain-speaking volume by two foreign scientists cause quite such an uproar.

American Alan Sokal and Belgian Jean Bricmont have dared to say what no one else would: modern French philosophy is a load of old tosh.

"Our aim is to say that the emperor has no clothes," the pair write in the introduction to Impostures Intellectuelles, published next week but already a topic of furious — and unfathomable — debate in the cafes of the Latin Quarter.

"We want to 'deconstruct' the reputation that these texts have of being difficult because they are deep. We show that if they seem incomprehensible, it is for the very good reason that they have nothing to say."

The authors — a physics professor at New York University and a theoretical physicist from the University of Louvain — slaughter one by one the sacred cows of contemporary French thought, from the psychoanalyst Jacques Lacan and the semiotician Julia Kristeva to Bruno Latour, the scientific sociologist, and the prominent left-wing philosopher Régis Debray.

"They talk abundantly of scientific theories of which they have, at best, a very vague understanding. They display a superficial erudition by throwing words at the reader in a context where they have no relevance. They demonstrate a veritable intoxication with words, combined with a superb indifference to their meaning," the pair write.

Quoting extensively from some of France's greatest minds, Mr Sokal and Mr Bricmont set about systematically demolishing their writings as deliberately obscure, excessively convoluted, pseudo-scientific claptrap.

Jacques Lacan, one of the best-known psychoanalysts of the century, is criticised for "arbitrarily mixing key words of mathematical theory, without in the least caring about their meaning".

The authors take particular exception to one of Mr Lacan's lesser-known theories, in which he argues that "the erect male organ, not as itself, not even as image, but as the missing piece of the desired image, is thus equal to the square root of -1 of the highest produced meaning".

In attempting to construct a mathematical formula for poetic language, Ms Kristeva, too, is guilty of "trying to impress the reader with scientific words which she manifestly does not understand".

"She has a vague idea of what she is talking about, but not much."

The works of Gilles Deleuze, a leading contemporary French philosopher who died recently, are "principally characterised by their lack of clarity ... stuffed with very technical terms used out of context, and with no apparent logic".

And of Jean Baudrillard, an influential sociologist and regular columnist for Libération newspaper, the authors conclude: "In the final analysis, one could ask what would actually remain of Baudrillard's thoughts if one removed the verbose veneer that cloaks them."

Unsurprisingly, the unprecedented attack has inflamed the Left Bank, home to the cream of France's intellectuals since the days of Jean-Paul Sartre and Simone De Beauvoir, and prompted outrage in the press.

"This is war," the daily newspaper Le Figaro proclaimed, while the front cover of the weekly news magazine Le Nouvel Observateur demanded: "Are our philosophers imposters?"

Stung, thinkers have hastened to respond. "What's the point of such a polemic, so far removed from present-day preoccupations?" asked Ms Kristeva. "It's an anti-French intellectual escapade."

Writer Roger-Pol Droit saw the broadside as part of a sinister new vogue for "scientific, as opposed to political, correctness".

It is clear the philosophers have been shaken. In the words of another of the book's targets, the psychoanalyst Felix Guattari: "Existence, as a process of de-territorialisation, is a specific inter-mechanic operation which superimposes itself on the promotion of singularised existential intensities. It is barely livable."

Jean Baudrillard on the Gulf war: two hypotheses in the same space-time

"The most extraordinary thing is that the two hypotheses — the apocalypse of real time and of pure war, and the triumph of the virtual over the real — are taking place at the same time, in the same space-time, and following each other implacably. It is the sign that the space of the event has become a multiply-refracted hyperspace, that the space of war has definitively become non-Euclidean."

Julia Kristeva on poetic language: theorisation supporting the theory of wholes

"Poetic language (which we will henceforth call by its initials, pl) contains the code of linear logic. Moreover, we can find in it all the combinatory figures that algebra has formalised into a system of artificial signs. Having admitted that pl is a formal system whose theorisation can support the theory of wholes, we can observe, at the same time, that the functioning of poetic meaning obeys the principles of the axiom of choice."

Regis Debray on the existence of God: a whole needs a reason and is not the reason

"Non-fulfilment stipulates that a whole cannot by definition be a substance in the Spinozist sense: something that exists in itself, and is conceived by itself. It needs a reason (from which to engender itself) and it is not the reason of itself."

Court set to extradite McAliskey

Lawyers say Osnabruck bomb suspect too ill to attend court

Owen Bowcott

ROISIN McAliskey, who is being cared for by a London psychiatric hospital's mother and baby unit, was yesterday ordered to appear in court so she can be transferred to Germany to face IRA bombing charges.

The demand came from the stipendiary magistrate at Bow Street court, Nicholas Evans, after he confirmed he was prepared to grant the German government an extradition order.

"I can indicate that on the basis of what has been said to me, were she here, I would commit her," Mr Evans told the court. But he was not prepared to make the order in her absence.

Lawyers for Ms McAliskey insisted they had received medical advice that the 25-year-old, who gave birth to a girl while on bail four months ago, was not well enough to appear in court.

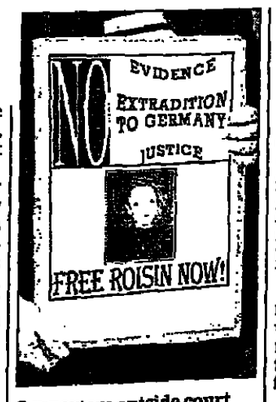
Her mother, the former Mid-Ulster MP Bernadette McAliskey, who was in court, called out: "She's not coming".

Later she said her daughter was suffering from "very severe post-traumatic stress disorder" following her treatment in Northern Ireland's Castlereagh holding centre, where she was taken after her arrest 10 months ago, and in two London prisons.

"This is just getting crazier by the minute. Now we cannot get out of this court. Meanwhile this is all affecting my daughter's health. I think she will be very seriously set back by the proceedings."

Roisin McAliskey has repeatedly denied taking part in the IRA's mortar attack on the British army barracks at Osnabruck in June 1996. Three bombs were fired from a lorry parked outside the base but only one exploded. No one was injured.

Both James Lewis, the lawyer for the German government, and Edward Fitzgerald QC, for Ms McAliskey, were prepared yesterday for the court to make an extradition order in her absence.



Supporters outside court demanded her release

Mr Fitzgerald, who plans to challenge the ruling in the High Court or by way of judicial review at a later stage, said: "Ms McAliskey has maintained her innocence throughout."

The Britain and Ireland Human Rights Centre, which has campaigned for her to be freed, claims she has never been to Germany and has witnesses to prove she was in Belfast in the run up to the bombing.

The German arrest warrant, read out in court yesterday, said evidence against her relied upon the statement of an eyewitness who claims to have seen her at the holiday home the IRA unit rented near Osnabruck, and fingerprints on a cellophane wrapping.

Her supporters maintain neither are reliable. The eyewitness, they say, has retracted his statement, and the prints may have been found elsewhere.

Since Ms McAliskey's arrest neither the German police nor the RUC "made any attempt to ascertain her whereabouts" during the month of the Osnabruck attack, the Human Rights Centre claims. "A mass of witness and documentary evidence, including extensive workplace records, confirms she was in Northern Ireland throughout the whole of June 1996."

The magistrate fixed a hearing for Ms McAliskey to appear on October 9.

'Whistleblower' sacked by MoD

Richard Norton-Taylor

A GOVERNMENT scientist has been sacked after blowing the whistle about waste and alleged corruption in controversial Ministry of Defence projects, including a multi-million pound plan to build a fleet of airships to monitor the movement of terrorist suspects in Northern Ireland.

The plan was derided by a senior army officer who suggested it should be used instead to advertise condoms.

Mike Arnold, an expert in electronic communications at the ministry's Defence Evaluation Research Agency (Dera), had earlier questioned another aborted plan — to use Nimrod aircraft to track cars driven by suspect terrorists.

For more than eight years, Mr Arnold was concerned about the scale of incompetence, complacency and waste in the MoD. He spelt out his concerns in letters to Dera management and a 150-page report to the MoD police.

John Chisholm, chief executive of Dera, told Mr Arnold last year that "remedial action" had been taken after an investigation commissioned by the agency upheld just two of his 24 complaints. As a result, Mr Chisholm said that no further action was required.

Later, however, the Civil Service Appeal Board found that shortcomings in the investigation were "so serious as to involve a denial of natural justice to Mr Arnold and to render the termination of his employment unfair".

Yesterday, a Dera spokeswoman said the agency accepted the board's findings. She added that MoD police found no evidence of fraud.

Mr Arnold's disclosures come at a time when ministers are indicating that they will back a private member's bill to give legal protection to whistleblowers revealing fraud, crime, and malpractice at work.

Deaf ear to a 'whistleblower', G2, page 10

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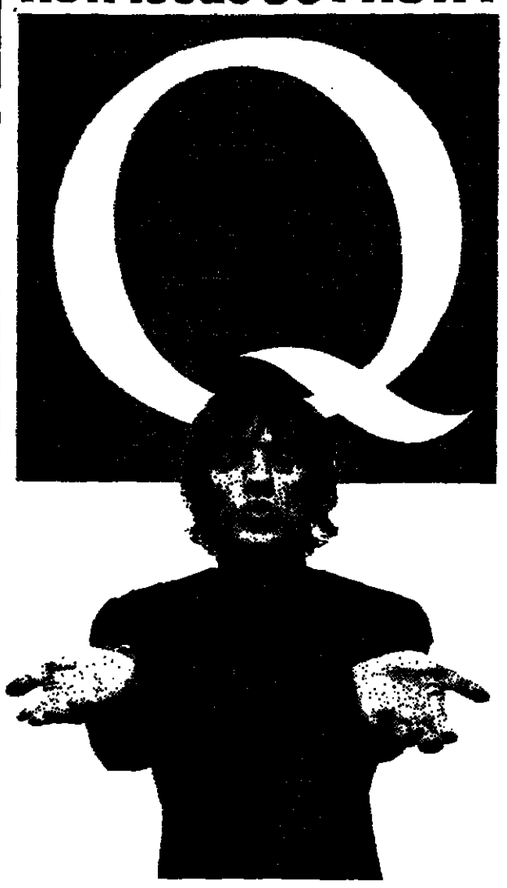

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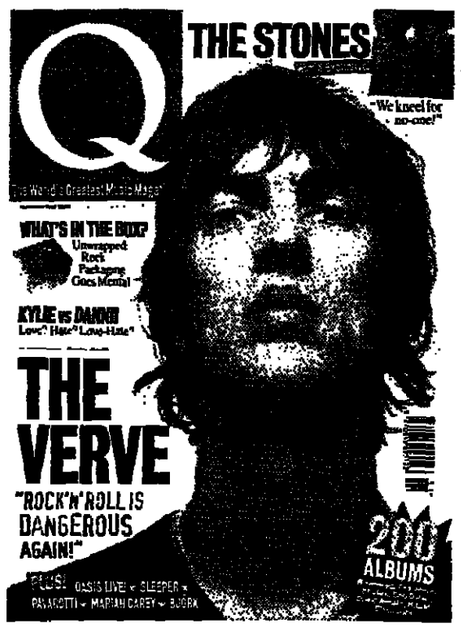

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The Guardian Wednesday October 1 1997

Awards open floodgates for 'dead man's finger' claims

Miners win crucial payout

Seumas Milne
Labour Editor

THE Government faces a bill of more than £100 million in damages for a miner's condition known as "dead man's fingers" after the High Court in Newcastle yesterday awarded £127,000 to seven former pitmen in a test case.

More than 12,000 ex-miners have registered compensation cases against British Coal, now a government-owned shell company, for the debilitating industrial disease.

Lawyers for the seven said many thousands more victims were expected to register claims. This — combined with an impending judgment on bronchitis and emphysema — could cost the Government more than £1 billion.

The condition, also known as vibration white finger, is caused by restriction of the blood supply to the hand and nerve damage, and leads to a loss of sensation and strength in the hands and fingers, sensitivity to cold, acute pain and blanching or whitening of the fingers during intermittent attacks.

Triggered by the prolonged use of vibrating tools or equipment, there is no cure or treatment for advanced stages of the disease. In severe cases, victims can lose the use of their hands.

Ian Lavery, the National Union of Mineworkers area secretary in Northumberland, where 5,000 claims are being processed, says: "Sufferers end up unable to use their fingers or handle small objects. They can't pick up keys or do up their buttons or zips. The worst cases never work again."

The decision could also affect manufacturing, farming and the forestry business where drills, pneumatic picks, and similar equipment are regularly used. Judge John Stephenson, who last year gave the crucial ruling against British Coal over vibration white finger, yesterday awarded between £5,000 and £41,000 to the seven for pain and suffering and resulting financial losses. Two other men received nothing — the claim of one was out of time; the other was found not to be suffering from the disease.

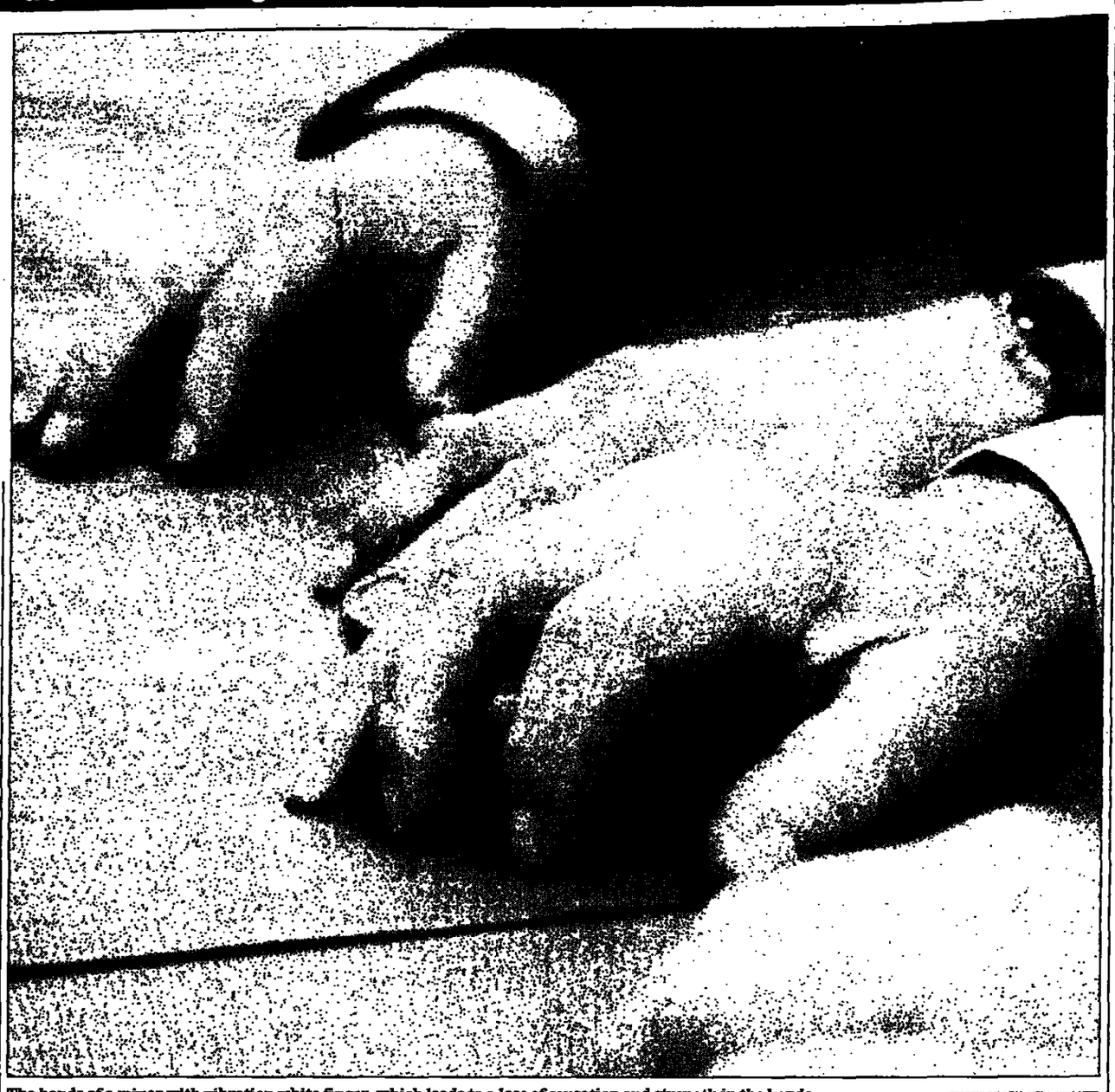
The seven were backed by the National Union of Mineworkers and by Nacods, the pit deputies' union. Their lawyers said the awards would "open the floodgates" for claims. Proceedings in more than 500 other cases have begun.

British Coal, which is due to be wound up next year, could appeal against the payouts — as it did against last year's judgment on its liability. But Bleddyn Hancock, of Nacods, said: "It is a political decision whether they appeal or not and how much longer these cases are dragged out. It is a critical decision for a Labour government. Are they going to drag these cases out longer or are they going to settle proper compensation? It is a moral matter."

Joseph Wright, one of the ex-miners, who used to work at Silverwood colliery, Rotherham, said: "I regard it not only as a victory for myself but for the rest of the people who can now obtain compensation. I have been fighting for seven years."

Leaked government documents from the previous administration have shown that Department of Trade and Industry officials are aware that the size of the eventual bill is likely to shrink the longer the cases are drawn out.

Last year's three-month test case found that British Coal had failed to keep its employees informed about the condition or take proper steps to prevent it.



The hands of a miner with vibration white finger, which leads to a loss of sensation and strength in the hands PHOTOGRAPH: WILL WALKER

'The pain was so intense that when I tried to warm my hands in water, it fetched me to my knees'

JOE Wright, aged 54, first noticed tingling and numbness in his hands when he was working underground at Silverwood colliery, near Rotherham, South Yorkshire, in the mid-1970s.

He was a special development worker, operating heavy boring machines. He had no idea what was causing the condition, and thought it was just a "private medical problem". No one at the pit was given any information about vibration white finger.

Before long he had developed the characteristic blanching — whitening of the fingers and joints — associated with the condition, and agonising pains brought on by sudden changes of temperature.

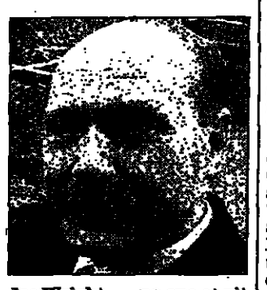
"The pain became so intense that on one occasion when I tried to warm my hands in water, it fetched me to my knees".

But he stayed at the pit — which closed in 1994 — and continued working on the vibrating boring machines. "It was getting worse and worse and I just couldn't take any more."

In 1988, he asked to be transferred to a lighter job in a warmer part of the mine. Instead, he was offered redundancy and became a greengrocer. He is now a security guard at the KP Foods factory in Rotherham, on wages far below those of a mineworker.

Yesterday, he was awarded £21,700. "It could have been a bit more, but I'm delighted."

— *Seumas Milne*



Joe Wright . . . no one at pit was given any information

Uphill climb for women in the police

Duncan Campbell
Crime Correspondent

MALE police officers do not like taking orders from women, according to research published yesterday.

Although a small number of women have reached the senior ranks, most others find it difficult to gain acceptance as detectives and in specialist fields, the survey says.

Jennifer Brown, a forensic psychologist who has made studies of women in the police service, told the British Psychological Society's criminological conference at Churchill college, Cambridge, that women police officers were less likely to be promoted and less likely to receive training than their male colleagues.

Women officers were denied access to male-dominated areas such as detective investigations and high-speed driving, she found. On the rare occasions when women were promoted to senior positions, male colleagues found it difficult to take orders from them.

Dr Brown, a senior lecturer at the University of Surrey, carried out an international research study looking at forces in 35 different countries. She found that the United States was at the forefront of equal opportunity policies. The United Kingdom stood up well by comparison with other European, Australian and African forces.

But junior male officers in Britain were often resistant to senior women officers. "Sometimes it takes the form of dumb insolence," she said, "or the exclusion [of the woman officer] from information." Junior male officers might also question an instruction in a way that they would not with a male officer.

There are now two women chief constables, Pauline Clare of Lancashire, and Elizabeth Neville of Wiltshire. "All credit to them, but they are exceptional," said Dr Brown. There was now a vacuum below the women of chief officer rank despite the fact that 14 per cent of the service in England and Wales was now female. There was a scarcity of women detectives leading key investigations.

Dr Brown said that the same attitude that had made it hard for women to join the police originally — physical strength, marriage and children — was now operating to prevent them from advancing. Not all senior policewomen had experienced this and not all male officers resented them, but the general problems faced by women officers 20 years ago still remained.

Malcolm Young, a senior research fellow at Hull university and a former police superintendent, told the conference that official attempts to rid the service of derogatory words for women officers had driven discrimination underground.

Last week, PC Kay Kellaway won a claim for sex discrimination against Thames Valley police. PC Kellaway, aged 34, said she was called "whore, bitch and slag".

Johnny Voste, a black Belgian resistance fighter, who was sent to Dachau after being arrested for sabotage. Many other blacks were rounded up and sent to concentration camps where an unknown number died

Film reveals plight of black population under the Nazis

KAMAL AHMED reports on the forgotten victims of the Third Reich, persecuted, sterilised and used to portray savages in films

A FRAGMENT of cinema film and archive photographs are likely to give an insight into the persecution of the small population of black people who lived in Germany during the Third Reich.

Hitler's Forgotten Victims, to be shown by Channel 4 tomorrow night, uses pictures never seen in public before to reveal that black families were sent to perform in the state circus or used as "actors" in German propaganda films portraying Africa as a continent of savages.

In emotional interviews, families, split apart during the Nazi regime, talk of their battles to find one another after the second world war. They also tell stories of family members not seen since the war and of a Nazi sterilisation programme for black and mixed-raced Germans.

"This is a story that is still largely untold," said Eddie Oyortey, associate producer of the documentary. "Because of the sheer number of Jewish people involved there has been a lot of documentation of their terrible suffering.

"The black population was small and although the documentation is there it is not collected in a systematic fashion. It has remained mostly unseen in the archives."

Many of the black people who suffered during the 1930s and the second world war have now moved back to Germany and are demanding compensation from the government for their treatment.

One man, James Michael, who fled from Germany to Paris before joining the French Foreign Legion, receives a pension from the French government but gets nothing from the German authorities.

Mr Michael and his brother, Theodore, and sister, Juliana, were split up during Nazi rule. It was not until the 1960s that they were reunited.

"I was liberated by the Russian soldiers," said Theodore, who is now a well-known actor in Germany. "They were surprised to see a black man still alive."

The new film footage includes pictures of black prisoners of war scavenging for scraps of food at the Hermer camp near Dortmund, in north-west Germany.

Black civilians were also sent to concentration camps but there is no record of how many of them died.

When Hitler came to power there were about 20,000 black people living in Germany. Many of them were descendents of soldiers from the French African colonies who were stationed on the Rhine after the first world war.

Hans Hauck, then a 17-year-old apprentice railway worker from Saarbrucken, in southern Germany, said that he was arrested by the Gestapo before being taken to a sterilisation clinic.

"The examination consisted of skull measurements, the eyebrows, eye colour, width of the nose," he said.

"We were lucky we weren't victims of euthanasia; we were only sterilised. I had no full anaesthetic and the whole thing was finished in about two hours. It was depressing and oppressive. I felt like half a human being."

Many black people living in Berlin joined the circus, the Afrikashau, to escape persecution. Nazi authorities took over the circus in 1940 and used it for propaganda purposes.

Others appeared in films and became employees of the Babelsburg studios.

"We turned up and played the crowds, the *hoi polloi* in films like Kongo Express and Auntie Wanda from Uganda," said Werner Egiomue from Berlin.

"We loved it. We met movie stars and we blacks could get together. Outside the door you could be arrested, but inside you were as safe as a bank."

But as Germany invaded surrounding countries many black residents were rounded up and sent to concentration camps.

Johnny Voste, a Belgian resistance fighter, was deported to Dachau after being arrested for "sabotage".

"We were treated like animals and beasts by the SS," said Willy Sel, Mr Voste's friend.

Asbestos dumping 'to be blamed on gypsies'

Christopher Elliott

A WORKMAN who yesterday claimed he was paid £400 to dump bags of lethal blue asbestos around the city of Birmingham said the plan was to blame gypsies for the dumping.

As workers made safe the last of the six sites in Aston and Erdington where plastic bags of asbestos were left over the weekend, a man claimed he was one of a gang of casual labourers paid to bag the asbestos at a building site.

"Five of us were hired to work on the site," he said. "I'm signing on and we were given a tenner a day for this. We were given a couple of shovels and a few bags. I told our boss he should not dump the stuff.

"He then paid another of the lads £350 and gave him precise instructions on where to dump it. He said it would be blamed on the gypsies because there had been a lot of trouble with them."

The asbestos came from the site of Rollco Screw and Rivet Co in Aston, Birmingham, an engineering company that employs 14 people. It was having part of the roof renewed.

Phil Rose, managing director, said the company called in contractors, M and M Joyce, to do the work.

"They showed us papers to say that while they couldn't remove asbestos themselves they were licensed to employ third parties to do it," he said. "The first we knew of a problem was when a bobby came knocking on our door."

He said the firm paid £18,500 to M and M Joyce to remove and replace the roof but he had now received an £80,000 estimate to decontaminate the factory."

Martyn Joyce, managing director of M and M Joyce, confirmed yesterday that his firm did not have an asbestos disposal licence and said he was shocked that his firm was linked to the asbestos scare.

He said: "I feel we have done everything correctly in the way it should have been done but things have gone wrong and we have to get to the bottom of this and apportion the blame accordingly."

Five children and a woman shopworker had been identified as handling the asbestos.

Student in army rape case had group sex, court told

Stuart Millar

A STUDENT allegedly gang-raped by six soldiers at a military college failed to tell police she had indulged in group sex with one defendant and another soldier because she was afraid nobody would believe she had been raped, a court heard yesterday.

The woman, aged 23 at the time, also admitted at Oxford crown court she had not told police about a sexual encounter with another defendant on the day of the alleged attack.

Captain Philip Bates, aged 26, Captain Ian Barlow, 29, Lieutenant Matthew Tupling, 24, Officer Cadet Andrew Stout, 20, and Officer Cadet Nicholas Oettinger, 20, deny raping the student "by joint enterprise" in May last year.

The prosecution alleges the attack occurred after the student and a friend, wrapped in towels, joined the six naked soldiers in a sauna at the Royal Military College of Science in Shrivenham, Oxfordshire after drinking at a village fete. She fled the sauna after Tupling urinated on her, and was dressing in Bates's room when the soldiers barged in and raped her repeatedly.

Under cross-examination, the student said she had not reported the attack for six months as she was afraid she would not be believed.

Stuart Montrose, defending Oettinger, asked why in her first statement to police she had not revealed she had sex with his client and another officer, Lt Rupert Whiting, who has not been charged, 10 days before the alleged attack.

She replied: "I thought if they thought I had slept with two men they would not believe me about the six."

She also deliberately failed to mention that she and Stout fondled each other during the fete, he said.

Earlier, the student broke down as she told the jury how Bartlett had attacked her twice, spitting on her when he had difficulty penetrating her the second time.

But Mr Montrose told her: "I suggest you have lied to the police and the court about what took place in the sauna. You went to Bates's room in the knowledge you were going to have sex and prepared to have a good time."

The case continues.

Heseltine's diary too full to attend Tory conference

Ewen MacAskill, Chief Political Correspondent

THE former cabinet minister Michael Heseltine confirmed yesterday he will not attend next week's Tory conference, an absence which will disappoint activists who regard him as one of the star turns.

Conservative Central Office denied his decision was a snub to the new party leader, William Hague. A spokesman said that when Central Office contacted him, he had given as his reason that it was "time to hand over to the next generation of Conservatives".

Mr Heseltine's theatrical deliveries attracted a huge, enthusiastic following, though over the last few years his peformances looked increasingly tired.

The Central Office source said: "We were aware he was not coming. We did not think it was an issue."

Mr Hague, questioned during a visit to Belfast about Mr Heseltine, refused to comment.

Mr Heseltine had been a potential candidate to replace John Major, but he suffered chest pains immediately after the General Election, a reminder of his heart attack four years ago, and his wife, Anne, immediately ruled him out of the leadership race.

Although Mr Hague has been the victim of a whispering campaign among senior Conservatives, who have questioned whether he was the right choice for the job, both Baroness Thatcher and Mr Major will attend.

The absence of Mr Heseltine will be interpreted by some Tories as a reflection of the post-election shambles in the party.

Mr Hague has contributed to this with his ballot of members. It has secured only a poor turn-out, thereby raising questions about whether it can be said to constitute a mandate.

He has added to his vulnerability by saying the party has to back him or sack him, and the outcome of the ballot to be announced next week will be equivocal given the turn-out, even if he receives a majority.

A Central Office spokesman said of Mr Heseltine, who for decades has automatically left the second week in October free for the conference: "He has previous engagements. He has a full diary. He has discussed the issue with the party chairman, Lord Parkinson."

He added: "We would be delighted to see Mr Heseltine at the conference but he feels the shadow cabinet have a case to put and should put that case at Blackpool."

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Labour in Brighton

Internment: Labour signals end of detention without limit

Ulster arrest powers curbed

Ewen MacAskill and John Mullin

THE Government is to scrap the controversial internment power, reviled by the nationalist community in Northern Ireland, to end the "legacy of unfairness and injustice".

A new emergency provisions bill with "significant changes" will be brought in this year, the Northern Ireland Secretary, Mo Mowlam, told the Labour conference in Brighton yesterday.

The repeal of the the internment clause, introduced by a Labour government in 1972, is a hugely symbolic concession to the nationalist community. Sinn Fein last night gave the move a guarded welcome.

The present internment clause gives the Government the power of sudden arrest and detention without limit of time of suspected members of paramilitary organisations.

Unionists, who will resent its removal as another concession to Sinn Fein, have over the past two decades regularly called for the operation to be repeated, arguing that it stands a better chance of success because of better intelligence about IRA membership and movement.

Ken Maginnis, the Ulster Unionist security spokesman, said last night: "The reality is that one day we may need it. It is being removed for no good reason.

"The Government will get no thanks from the IRA. They have paid a series of ransoms, small in themselves, but cumulatively they have got nothing out of it except to keep the terrorists at the table of democracy."

Ms Mowlam elaborated on the changes when she addressed a fringe meeting.

In contrast with Labour fringes of recent years which weredominated by calls for troops out and unification of Ireland, the mood was one of reconciliation, a message that was reinforced by the presence in the audience of representatives from the republican, nationalist and loyalist parties: Sinn Fein, the Social Democratic and Labour Party, and the Progressive Unionist Party, led by David Ervine.

When internment was introduced it proved to be a disaster, enraging Catholic opinion and boosting support for the IRA. Many innocent Catholics were arrested, while the bulk of the IRA leadership escaped, many of them fleeing to the Republic.

A high price was also paid by the Unionists. Internment signalled the end of the Stormont Parliament after 50 years, and direct rule from Westminster was imposed in March 1972.

It was phased out in 1975, but remained on the statute books as part of the Emergency Powers Act. Its removal will pave the way for the eventual removal of the Prevention of Terrorism Act, a prize long sought by Labour activists because it takes away basic legal rights, primarily from Northern Ireland citizens.

Ms Mowlam signalled that this would eventually be replaced by anti-terrorism legislation throughout the UK.

In other confidence-building measures she also told a fringe meeting that a police bill was to be introduced to change the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

"It is going to be a long, hard fight," she said.

The overhaul of the RUC is one of the most contentious parts of the peace talks. David Ervine of the Progressive Unionist Party, in one of the few discordant notes at the fringe, said the issue should be one for the peace talks rather than the Commons.

The RUC, 90 per cent of which is recruited from the Protestant community, is distrusted in many nationalist areas, being identified with unionism.

The nationalist community has called for the name to be dropped and a more neutral one such as the Northern Ireland police service, adopted, but Ms Mowlam said this was such an emotive issue that it would be better to change the structure before tackling the name change.

Altering the balance in favour of Catholics is a huge logistical problem.

If peace is achieved the Government will face the prospect of cutting the size of the RUC from 13,000 to a figure closer to the 3,000 it had before the Troubles.

With a freeze on recruitment, it would be harder to redress the Catholic-Protestant balance.

Tony Blair walking to the podium to give his conference speech yesterday PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN ARGLES

Yesterday

Good day: Cherie, for her cool platform performance at the end of Blair's speech. Let's hope the days of mauling and kissing and dewy-eyed gazing are gone forever

Bad day: Those ordinary folk of Brighton who wanted to spend a dull autumn afternoon chortling over The Full Monty at the local Odeon. No chance: the Millbank Militia had taken it over — all six screens — to relay Our Leader's speech to the hungry and adoring masses who couldn't get into the conference centre. Great speech, but Blair's dance routine wasn't as good as the lads in the film

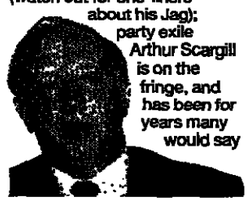
Fence-sitter of the day: "Blair's speech didn't have the emotional charge of last year. It was a bit too long and sort of sagged into a lecture in the middle. But it was really brilliant" — Austin Mitchell MP

Daylight robbery: The party's in debt after spending £23 million in the run-up to the election, more than twice the amount spent in 1992, delegates were told. So dig deep, comrades - oops, colleagues

Today

Issues of the day: Expect blood on the conference floor over the most contentious issue of the week, university tuition fees. Also up for debate: the lottery, environment and transport, pensions and welfare to work.

People of the day: Conference's favourite stand-up comedian John Prescott should do a decent routine in the transport debate (watch out for one-liners about his Jag); party exile Arthur Scargill is on the fringe, and has been for years many would say



Preacher forgets his tambourine

Sketch

Simon Hoggart

TONY Blair walked on to the music of Saint-Saens, specifically the part used as the theme of Babe. This is the popular film about a shy talking piglet who learns to round up flocks of docile, disciplined sheep. Just a coincidence, of course.

The same tune was the last music played at Princess Diana's funeral, but I should think that was a coincidence too. Almost certainly.

We had just seen a video depicting Five Months of Glorious Progress. Election promises honoured! Blair Triumphs in Amsterdam! Ragged cheers greeted these heroic declarations, reminding us that New Labour has always had trouble distinguishing between a decision and an achievement.

The Prime Minister walked briskly on stage. The audience rose to him in a standing ovation which turned out, perhaps, to be slightly more enthusiastic than the one at the end. He kept waving them back down. You half expected him to say that the hall was only booked for an hour, and if they didn't mind, he'd crack on. His whole style is muffled and even subdued, even the loud bits.

It's not so much a speech as a presentation; the audience is like an evangelical congregation who want to be writhing on the floor in ecstasy, but find that they've got a Church of England vicar who hasn't even got a tambourine.

By the end, when he was talking about the importance of giving: "Make this the giving age . . ." he sounded as if he was wrapping up the harvest festival." And I say this to you — vegetable marrows at the back, please." Of course the conference realised they weren't being offered very much in exchange for their giving. He used the phrase "hard choices" or "harsh choices" 11 times, and in the past this has always been Labour government code for "no more money".

So it is today. But under Mr Blair, harshness is also a virtue in itself. "The high ideal of the best schools in the world. Reached through hard choices," he said. (Once again, few verbs. But slightly more this year. Nevertheless, 97 verb-free sentences.)

"It must be a compassionate society. But it is compassion with a hard edge. A strong society cannot be built on soft choices."

Compassion with a hard edge! The razor blade in the duvet! I wonder what it's like at the Blair breakfast table. "Which cereal would you like, dear?"

"I want the hard choice, and that means Shreddies. But Shreddies without milk, because they would then become the soft choice, and soft choices are no basis for a better breakfast for our people."

As well as being hard, we must be modern. To be modern is an absolute good in itself, and he used the word 21 times. "Business and enterprise . . . require us to modernise and take the hard choices to do it."

Civil servants will soon be replaced by computers. "We are setting a target that within five years, one quarter of dealings with Government can be done electronically." That means instant feedback. Members of the public can be asked "Do you want your choice to be (click on one) (a) harsh (b) cruel or (c) downright pitiless?"

There were curious phrases. "The gates of xenophobia falling down", almost Blakean. There was the description of his mood when he won the election and we, the people, called on him to lead us into a new century. "That was your challenge to me. Proudly, humbly, I accepted it."

Vainly, modestly, he set to work. Harshly, compassionately, he took the tough choices. Loudly, softly, he spoke to conference, and fascinated, bored, the audience gave him a standing ovation anyway.

Union may rebel over rail ownership

Transport: Renationalisation call a signal that left is regrouping

Anne Perkins
Political Correspondent

THE Labour leadership faces its first defeat today on a motion to take Railtrack back into public ownership, which would cost £4.5 billion, the Government says.

It is another sign, after Peter Mandelson's failure to win a seat on the National Executive Committee, that delegates are willing to buck the platform.

The rail workers' union, the RMT, was still taking soundings last night and was planning to wait until this morning before deciding whether to agree to remit the motion.

The Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, will tell delegates that immediate renationalisation is out of the question.

"You cannot go to Cabinet arguing the case for that ahead of schools, hospitals pensions and even rail safety," he will say.

But he will remind the party that it is already policy that "if any rail franchises end or fail, then in the medium term returning them to the public sector must still be a live option."

But the railworkers' leader, Jimmy Knapp, who is confident he has the support to defeat the platform, said: "It's not a question of railworkers saying, 'Don't build hospitals, don't build schools, give the money to us'. There are real options for the financing of our industry that render that option superfluous."

The leadership is also braced for strong criticism in this afternoon's education debate as the Education Secretary, David Blunkett, defends the introduction of tuition fees for students.

Although the vote is now expected to go with the platform, constituency delegates will make the most of what some fear will be one of their last chances to debate freely at conference.

Tomorrow's defence debate will also provide an outlet for delegates' frustrations at what some see is a conference which looks increasingly like an American-style convention.

But others on the left believe it is still possible to use the new policy commissions, approved by conference on Monday as part of the programme for party reform, to their advantage.

"That's the real battle," said Lynne Jones, one of 30 of so MPs still affiliated to the hard left Campaign group at Westminster.

Ken Livingstone, MP for Brent East, has claimed his victory over Peter Mandelson for the vacant place on the NEC was the first success for a new left grouping, built on the co-operation established during the campaign to delay the internal party reforms. One battle was lost on Monday when the unions backed the leadership, but the cross-party Labour Reform group, which led the fight, says it takes comfort from its share of the vote among constituency delegates and is now planning a more formal organisational structure.

Last night its vice-chairman, Tim Pendry, said: "It almost certainly will turn into something, but it won't happen overnight. Modernising must have a purpose. Our core values must be protected."

The new grouping reaches across the traditional party spectrum, from the so-called "classic left" Campaign group to the traditional right. Labour Reform has an informal echo at Westminster, in a powerful but discreet group of MPs which is thought to have the support of Mr Prescott and the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook.

Ms Jones, MP for Birmingham Selly Oak, said: "You don't get unity by seeking to impose it. You get it by making people feel part of it. We accept the need to compromise, but it has to be a two-way process."

Ken Livingstone, page 9

Schools to get £19m for books

Education: Assault on poor literacy and numeracy standards

Rebecca Smithers
Education Correspondent

SCHOOLS will receive £19 million worth of books to boost the Government's literacy drive, described by Tony Blair yesterday as "the biggest assault on poor literacy and numeracy standards this country has ever seen".

The books are part of a £50 million boost to the literacy programme to be announced by the Education Secretary David Blunkett today. Ministers have also secured the agreement of Phil Redmond, producer of the Channel 4 soap Brookside, to highlight the importance of literacy in a plot.

Most of the extra money will go to primary schools, but some will be earmarked for similar projects in secondary schools next year. Although the money comes out of the departmental budget, it will form part of a standards fund, replacing the long-standing Grants for Educational Support and Training, funded equally by the government and local education authorities.

Mr Blair also said the extra £165 million earmarked last week for universities would enable Labour to lift the Tory cap on student numbers and set a target of an extra 500,000 people in higher and further education by 2002.

Special Internet pricing packages would be offered in which costs could be as little as £1 per school pupil per year. By 2002 all schools would be on the Internet.

Mr Blair also revealed that the Government is not going to implement the Tories' planned cut in the Home Office budget dedicated to tackling racial disadvantage. The grant is used predominantly to support the cost of employing additional teachers and classroom assistants to teach English as a second language in schools.

Mr Blair also said a new target of £2 billion would be set for the school repairs and equipment programme, which will initially benefit 2,300 schools. The first beneficiaries were named yesterday, but by 2002 up to 10,000 schools should have received money for general improvements.

Giving Kinnock his due in Europe

Diary

Jonathan Freedland

MUTTERINGS from the Metropole. With the current leader's position so invincible, gossip-hungry Labour grandees are musing over the future of a past incumbent.

Could Neil Kinnock, they wonder, finally get the recognition he has been denied for so long? Is it too far-fetched to imagine that with 12 left-leaning governments in the EU, and with the SPD set to return to power in Germany, Mr Kinnock might make a natural head of the European Commission? Come the millennium, the job will be vacant and the title fairly rolls off the tongue: President Kinnock.

TELEVISION can be so cruel. "I'm tired of hearing the NHS described as if it were a relic," thundered the PM. Precisely on the word "relic" the BBC cut away to a shot of . . . Frank Dobson.

SECURITY has become one of the few sources of dissent at Brighton. Delegates have to break into the "ring of steel" that surrounds the conference centre and the main hotels, undergoing airport-style metal detectors, emptying their pockets and the like. As he was frisked before entry, Ron Todd, the self-described "dinosaur" of the old TGWU, was heard to gripe, "I don't know about New Labour — this is bloody Hard Labour."

STAYING inside the Cordon (or "Cordon Brown" as the fun-loving Labourites have called it), requires great ingenuity. One has constantly to dodge the vigilantes of Group 4.

Disabled MP Anne Begg suffered the indignity of being lifted out of her wheelchair, so it could be "swept" for possible weaponry, while New Statesman promotions supremo Konrad Caulkett was followed into the men's loos by the boys from Group 4, their suspicions aroused by his hold-all. What atrocity was he about to stage? Turns out, he was putting on his best togs for the New Statesman party.

THE souvenir shop in Brighton is doing a brisk trade in books, T-shirts and mugs, including one bearing the homey, warming slogan: Tough on Crime. One can just imagine curling up with a nice hug of Horlicks with that, can't you? No sign, by the way, of a matching teapot with the words, And Tough on the Causes of Crime. That bit must have been dropped.

NHS changes are prescribed

Health: Action zones to be created

Michael White
and David Brindle

LABOUR will invest in the National Health Service but it will have to embrace change, Tony Blair warned yesterday as he announced creation of 10 experimental "health action zones".

His words followed an earlier admission by the Health Secretary, Frank Dobson, that Labour's election pledge to cut hospital waiting lists would not be easily fulfilled, and demands from delegates for extra cash to meet the expected winter crisis in the NHS.

Mr Blair's warning will be seen as a thinly veiled declaration that the Government will not shrink from closing hospitals in order to divert money into better community health care.

Promising improved funding for the service, the Prime Minister said: "We will get the money, but in return I want reform."

The zones, first mooted in June, will be set up next spring to act as hot-houses for new ideas in health and social care. In 10 areas, yet to be chosen, barriers between hospitals, community and GP services and social services will be broken down.

Earlier, Mr Dobson had announced 42 pilot schemes to test new forms of co-operation in the commissioning of health care. The schemes will cover six million people and seek to bring together fund-holding GPs and others to plan to meet local health needs.

Mr Dobson also released an extra £50 million for professional training — providing placements for 250 medical students, 390 junior doctors and more than 1,000 nurses.

While the conference endorsed a long shopping list of potential NHS reforms, ranging from single-sex wards to a review of prescription charges, Mr Dobson reiterated that he would not easily be able to fulfil Labour's election pledge to cut hospital waiting lists — now standing at 1.2 million in England alone.

Speakers from the floor called for extra cash to meet the feared winter crisis in the NHS. Rodney Bickerstaffe, general secretary of Unison, the biggest health workers' union, urged ministers to abandon use of the private finance initiative (PFI) to build new hospitals.

Mr Dobson said the extra £1.2 billion promised for the service next year would mean £3 million more a day: double what the Liberal Democrats had promised in their manifesto.

The Guardian Wednesday October 1 1997

French bishops apologise to Jews

The Catholic Church has made a public and historic mea culpa for its wartime support of the Vichy regime, writes **Alex Duval Smith** in Drancy

IN AN emotional ceremony at the site of a second world war deportation camp, France's Roman Catholic bishops appealed to Jews last night "to hear our words of repentance" for the Church's complicity in 73,000 Holocaust deaths.

The unprecedented *mea culpa*, which some Jewish leaders privately fear could prompt a backlash, included an admission that the pro-Vichy wartime French Church had displayed a "narrow vision of [its] mission", and that its leaders were guilty of "loyalism and docility far and beyond traditional obedience [to a government]".

The "declaration of repentance" delivered by the bishop of Saint-Denis, whose diocese includes a housing estate built on the site of the former deportation camp at Drancy, north of Paris, is seen as a sign that the Pope intends soon to apologise for the Vatican's collusion with fascists and the Nazi regime.

Historians have repeatedly pointed out that the Roman Catholic Church in France failed to condemn anti-Jewish laws passed by the Vichy government after the German occupation in 1940.

The measures, passed on October 3 1940, barred Jews from owning property or practising professions such as law, medicine and teaching. From the summer of 1942, when large-scale deportations from France began, the laws made it easy for police to trace Jews.

The apology — timed to coincide with the 57th anniversary of the introduction of the laws — went much further than statements two years ago by the German and Polish Catholic Churches, delivered on the 50th anniversary of the liberation of the first concentration camps.

The French Church has denied that the timing of the apology is linked to the opening on Wednesday of the trial of Maurice Papon, a former government minister, who is accused of sending 1,560 Jews to their deaths between 1942 and 1944. He is 87.

Last night Msgr Olivier de Berranger, the Bishop of Saint-Denis, told Jewish and Roman Catholic leaders gathered at Drancy: "As well its narrow vision of the mission of the Church, the hierarchy showed a lack of understanding of the enormous global disaster which was taking place."

In his half-hour address, delivered beside a railway cattle waggon which stands as a permanent memorial in the centre of the housing estate, Msgr de Berranger said: "The spiritual authorities, steeped in loyalism and docility ... remained locked in an attitude of conformism and prudence.

> Prominent Jews privately fear the speech could prompt a backlash

"This was dictated in part by fears of reprisals ... and did not take into account that the Church, at a time when it was called to act on a disfunctioning social fabric and enjoyed considerable power and influence, could have blocked the irreparable."

Adding that several French clerics and numerous members of religious orders had spoken out or provided hiding places for Jews, he said that nevertheless "one has to ask oneself whether individual acts of charity and solidarity are sufficient to honour the call of greater justice".

His address, which was reported to have taken months to prepare and was approved by Jewish leaders, accused the wartime bishops of "acquiescing through silence to flagrant breaches of human rights". It accused priests of perpetuating "the teachings of contempt".

Several prominent French Jews who saw the speech before it was delivered privately expressed alarm at its strength, fearing such self-criticism could prompt a backlash.

Some traditionalists in the French Church are close to the National Front. The extremist party's leader, Jean-Marie Le Pen, said the apology was "scandalous", because it "blames people who were alive 50 years ago when everyone knows that the Church showed compassion towards persecuted people, including Jews".

Serge Klarsfeld, a leading Jewish lawyer who campaigns for fuller information about French collaboration, said the thousands of French lay people and clergy who put their lives at risk to hide Jews should not be forgotten.

"The Church could have done more to prevent the laws from going through in 1940, but after the deportations began in July 1942 its leaders were very much more outspoken than the religious hierarchy in other countries."

Mr Klarsfeld said that opposition from Church leaders — who initially supported the Vichy regime out of anti-communism and for its maxim *famille, patrie, travail* (family, fatherland, labour) — prevented the worst excesses of anti-Semitism from reaching France.

"About 75,000 Jews were deported from France to Nazi death camps. But France had a total of 320,000 Jews and many were protected by Catholics," he said.

Leader comment, page 8

'Vodka binges' blamed for male death rate

James Meek in Moscow

RUSSIAN drinking habits, the easy availability of cheap alcohol, and smoking have played the biggest role in the catastrophic drop in male life expectancy in the 1990s, scientists from a British-Russian health research project told a conference on the country's mortality crisis yesterday.

Their conclusions, which were greeted with scepticism by the local medical establishment, will be controversial in the West too because they suggest that binge drinking of spirits can directly cause heart failure. Previously alcohol was thought to kill indirectly as a result of violence, or over time as a result of diseases like cirrhosis of the liver.

The new research, funded by the British government's "know-how" fund, contradicts the Russian opposition view that the economic crisis which followed the collapse of the Soviet Union is largely to blame for the curtailed lives of Russian men compared to other Europeans.

Men's life expectancy at birth has plunged by six years to 58 since 1990. Every second man aged 20 will die before he reaches 60, compared to one in 10 Britons.

"Yes, compared to Western countries the Russian health service is grossly underfunded," said one of the British researchers at the Moscow conference, Dr David Leon of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

"But even if the health service was optimised it wouldn't make a substantial impact on the gap between Russia and the rest of the world, because the gap comes from the factors which give rise to disease in the first place."

The free market made low-quality vodka relatively cheaper than ever before and available anywhere. By 1993 men were drinking the equivalent of a bottle of vodka every two days.

Russian men drink large amounts of vodka in short binges. Half a bottle of neat vodka in 30 minutes is considered a moderate night's work.

Official Russian statistics put only 2 per cent of deaths down to alchohol. But the research team says the pattern of deaths after peak Russian drinking times can only be explained by sudden alcohol-induced heart failure.

"Evidence is emerging that heavy binge drinking gives rise to deaths from heart failure due to very high levels of alcohol actually damaging the electrical properties of the heart," said Dr Leon.

Russian delegates disputed the findings, arguing that aside from bad medical care — next year's budget allocates just £6.60 per head for health — poverty, stress, crime, unemployment and depression are more likely to reduce life expectancy.

> Every second Russian man aged 20 will die before he reaches 60

But a Russian member of the research group, Vladimir Shkolnikov, pointed to Armenia, which endured even harsher post-Soviet conditions than Russia — not just economic collapse but war and an energy crisis. There, with different drinking traditions, life expectancy had fallen by only 2.2 years.

● The government's final report yesterday on the Mir collision seemed to back off from an earlier finding that blamed human error.

A summary said only that an "unfavourable combination of factors" had caused an overladen, unmanned cargo ship to crash into Mir in June. — AP.

After Italy's earthquake

Children in Foligno play football yesterday beside tents set up to shelter those forced out of their homes by Friday's quake PHOTOGRAPH: LUCA BRUNO

Brave mayor saves Gozzoli frescos

A local hero risked his life to preserve art treasures, writes **Philip Willan** in Rome

PROMPT and courageous action to save the treasured frescos of Benozzo Gozzoli from last Friday's earthquake has turned Luigi Gambacurta, the mayor of the small town of Montefalco, into a local hero.

While elsewhere the earthquake has brought controversy over alleged looting, delays in the rescue operation and the decisions that cost the lives of four people in the Assisi basilica, Mr Gambacurta has become a symbol of his community's resistance in the face of adversity.

"We just did our duty. Together with the other administrators we did everything in our power to save the Gozzoli frescos," he said.

Gozzoli, a pupil of Beato Angelico and the founder of an important Umbrian school of painting, died on October 4 1497.

"After what has happened, we intend to celebrate the fifth centenary of his death with even greater enthusiasm," Mr Gambacurta said. "Gozzoli began his artistic career in Montefalco and his frescos here are of fundamental importance for the history of early Renaissance art."

The mayor, who is also a teacher, went first to check on the school building on Friday morning before turning his mind to Gozzoli, whose radiant frescos grace the walls of the Church of San Francesco — now the civic museum.

"We inspected the vault through a telescope and found that the earthquake during the night had caused one of its main supporting ribs to bend, exposing some of the bricks. If that had given way, the whole vault would have come down," he said.

Mr Gambacurta immediately procured scaffolding and work was under way to support the rib and cover the frescos with gauze when the second, devastating earthquake struck at 11.42am.

"The roof could have come down at any moment. We were virtually holding it up with our hands. It was extremely frightening," he said. "One needs an element of luck and in Assisi they were unlucky. We were able to take action and we were lucky."

Gozzoli's frescos, which cover one wall and the apse of the deconsecrated church, borrow heavily from the now damaged cycle by Giotto in Assisi. Art experts have praised Mr Gambacurta's prompt intervention and said that the large cracks that have appeared in Gozzoli's works can be repaired.

The mayor's work has also helped to ensure the survival of the museum's other masterpieces, which include a Madonna by Perugino and works by a number of medieval Umbrian artists.

Court frees judges

Denis Staunton in Berlin

SEVEN former East German prosecutors and judges who conducted two unfair trials of one of the most prominent critics of the communist regime were acquitted yesterday by a court in Frankfurt-an-der-Oder.

Robert Havemann, a scientist, was put under house arrest in 1976 after leading a protest against the expulsion from East Germany of the dissident songwriter Wolf Biermann.

Three years later, Havemann was convicted on a trumped-up charge of illegal currency dealing. He died in 1982 but was posthumously rehabilitated when both convictions were quashed after German reunification.

Yesterday the court acquitted the former legal officials of perverting the course of justice because it could not be proved that they knowingly allowed their actions to be influenced by the East German secret police. They insisted that they were applying the law of the land at the time.

A member of the German Communist Party since 1932, Havemann fought in the resistance against Hitler and supported the East German state after the end of the second world war.

He became disillusioned with the regime's authoritarian tendencies and was expelled from the party and stripped of his professorship at East Berlin's Humboldt University after publishing his polemic Dialectic without Dogma in 1964. Although he never abandoned socialism, Havemann became East Germany's leading dissident.

Slovakia's prime minister wages round-the-clock war on president

Nick Thorpe in Budapest

A DIGITAL clock mounted on a building facing the presidential palace in Bratislava has become the latest battleground in a long-running feud between the Slovak government and its president.

It shows a countdown, in days, hours and minutes, of President Michal Kovac's remaining term in office. It was put up by an advertising agency which, according to a report on an independent Slovak television station, is close to the government.

The prime minister, Vladimir Meciar, and the president are former allies and co-founders of the government party, the Movement for a Democratic Slovakia, which took Slovakia to independence in 1993. But Mr Meciar blamed President Kovac for bringing down one of his previous governments, and has since become his most bitter opponent, trying to oust him for the past four years.

The prime minister has managed to strip the president of all the functions of his office not specifically protected by the constitution, and to deprive the presidency of most sources of income. One result was a long delay last year before the president could move into the renovated palace, because the presidency could not afford to furnish the building.

In another, much publicised, incident the president's son was kidnapped and dumped outside a police station in neighbouring Austria. At the subsequent trial a former agent of the Slovak secret service testified that the service had carried out the kidnapping at the government's orders, to discredit the president.

Yesterday's day column on the clock showed 138, suggesting that the term expires on February 15 1998. But even this is fiercely disputed by the president, who says it actually expires 15 days later, on March 2.

No mercy shown to ailing Black Widow of Austria

Kate Connolly in Vienna

A JUDGE in Vienna refused to show mercy yesterday to Austria's so-called Black Widow, the alleged serial killer who claims to have spent her life nursing sick people. Elfriede Blauensteiner appealed in vain against a life sentence on the grounds of ill health.

Blauensteiner was making her first public appearance since being convicted of the murder of her lover seven months ago. At the eleventh hour, the appeal case was moved from the high court to the district court because Blauensteiner, who has a pacemaker, complained of heart palpitations. The district court has medical facilities.

"To give old and sick people a life sentence is excessive," her lawyer, Rudolf Mayer, told the court. Blauensteiner also claims to be a diabetic.

The 66-year-old grandmother used the anti-depressant drug, Anafranil, slowly to poison the retired post master, Alois Pichler, aged 77, in autumn 1995. She is also alleged to have used drugs to poison up to 10 other men and one woman.

Before the appeal Blauensteiner had said she hoped to gain a sympathy vote from the judge, because of her heart problems. Karl Bernhauser, her second lawyer, said Blauensteiner's crime should be viewed as "intentional grievous bodily harm" rather than murder.

But the judge, Johann Rzeszut, said there was "no logical way such a conclusion could be reached".

There were still 'huge amounts of embarrassment' in public. Molly would often take her clothes off, her teeth out and her breasts out in restaurants.
Growing up with Molly Parkin
G2 page 8

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Clinton told to act on global warming

Paul Brown
Environment Correspondent

MORE than 1,500 of the world's most distinguished scientists have signed a declaration urging world leaders to act immediately to prevent the "potentially devastating consequences of human-induced global warming".

The, petition, supported by 104 of the 138 surviving recipients of Nobel prizes in the sciences, was presented to President Clinton yesterday. It is intended as a counter-blast to an intense lobbying campaign by US industry aimed at preventing progress at the climate talks due in Kyoto, Japan, in December.

The next few days are crucial in the battle for the hearts and minds of America. Mr Clinton hosts a White House seminar on Monday to advise on binding targets and timetables for reducing carbon dioxide emissions in the US up to the year 2010.

Mr Clinton made a personal commitment at the Earth Summit review conference at the United Nations in New York in June to set targets for the Kyoto meeting. But he has been subjected to a propaganda offensive ever since.

The Climate Change Coalition — set up by the oil, coal and motor industries — has spent £10 million on television advertising in the past six weeks alone. It has financed dubious science showing that global warming is caused by sunspots, and has claimed that action to cut carbon dioxide emissions will cost jobs, increase taxes and make America less competitive.

Yesterday's petition was presented to Mr Clinton at a conference in Washington by the Nobel laureate Henry Kendall, chairman of the Union of Concerned Scientists. He said: "Let there be no doubt about the conclusions of the scientific community that the threat of global warming is very real and action is needed immediately. It is a grave error to believe that we can continue to procrastinate."

Dudley Herschbach, another Nobel prize winner and professor of chemistry at Harvard University, said: "This is a wake-up call for world leaders. Never before has the senior scientific community spoken so boldy on the urgent need to prevent disruption to our climate."

Scientists first addressed world leaders on the issue four years ago, when they warned: "Our current practices put at serious risk the future that we wish for human society and the plant and animal kingdoms."

Yesterday the petition said: "Over four years have passed, and progress has been woefully inadequate. Some of the most serious problems have worsened. Invaluable time has been squandered because so few leaders have risen to the challenge."

Environment groups are alarmed by the poor progress in climate change talks.

The 170 countries which signed the Climate Change Convention in Rio de Janeiro are supposed to meet in Kyoto to set targets and timetables to reduce emissions for the first 20 years of the next century. Australia, Japan and Canada are dragging their feet, and Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, told a fringe meeting at the Labour conference in Brighton this week that he was not optimistic.

He said the US held the key because its citizens accounted for 22 per cent of the world emissions of carbon dioxide.

The US is already exceeding by 14 per cent its target of stabilising emissions at 1990 levels by the year 2000. The European target of a 15 per cent cut by 2010 has been rejected by the White House as too demanding.

Mr Clinton's main political problem is a unanimous Senate vote not to agree to anything in Kyoto unless China and other rapidly developing countries also agree to reductions. But these countries argue that the industrialised world caused the problem and so should be the first to take steps to solve it. Developing countries' priority is improving their populations' living standards. But the science suggests they will be the first victims of climate change.

Kyoto is seen by many as the last chance to advance the world environment agenda.

● BP will begin seeking ways to limit the greenhouse gases it emits, as a "constructive contribution" to halting global warming, its chief executive, John Browne, said in Berlin yesterday.

Asia will take years to recover from smog damage, says UN

THE United Nations yesterday described bush fires in Indonesia as an environmental emergency which would affect individual health and the well-being of Asian economies for years.

Jakarta's neighbours, particularly Malaysia, have borne the brunt of a smog caused by fires which have raged for weeks in Sumatra and the Indonesian part of Borneo island.

UN experts, in Jakarta to co-ordinate international efforts to douse the flames, warned that even if the fires are controlled soon the pollution after-effects could linger.

"The long-term effects are in health, economic health, social and ecological areas," said Ravi Rajan, the UN's chief representative. "This will probably last a few years." — Reuter.

UN inspects America's death row

Ed Vulliamy in Washington

THE United States is being put under the kind of scrutiny by the United Nations that it usually urges for other countries as an international team investigating its use of the death penalty tours the south this week.

The UN inquiry is being led by Bacre Ndiaye, a leading human rights investigator from Senegal. He is the second such UN monitor of the US. The first was on racism in 1992.

Like his predecessor, Mr Ndiaye was initially welcomed by the administration, which approved his tour last year.

Requests were made to meet President Clinton and Vice-President Al Gore. Mr Ndiaye says he was especially eager to meet the attorney-general, Janet Reno, and representatives of the supreme court.

But these have been refused. During the first few days of his tour, visiting prisons and trying to talk to politicians, Mr Ndiaye has had to be content with junior officials, two congressmen, and no senators.

Officials at the UN were anxious to point out, however, that Mr Ndiaye was touring Washington during the penultimate week of the congressional term, and that politicians were "very, very busy".

In New York he secured an audience with the former governor Mario Cuomo, who is opposed to the death penalty, but did not meet Governor George Pataki.

Mr Ndiaye seemed to have slightly better luck yesterday in Miami, capital of Florida, the state that rates second in the execution top 10, after Texas, where he visited the Broward county prison before meeting the city police chief.

Mr Ndiaye visits Texas tomorrow, where he has a meeting with the state's chief public defender of those facing death row. His final tour will be of California.

Mr Ndiaye was appointed under the auspices of the UN Commission on Human Rights, which urges member states to enforce an international convention curbing the expansion of "summary or arbitrary executions".

The commission passed a resolution in 1995 in which it declared itself "deeply alarmed at the persistence, on a large scale, of extra-judicial, summary or arbitrary executions". The latter includes any death ordered by a court.

After the resolution, Mr Ndaiye published an extensive report on the death penalty worldwide.

'And what's it like on death row in Senegal, I'd like to know'

In the section on the US he said he was deeply concerned about reports of cases "which were allegedly blatantly tainted by racial bias" and about reports indicating that defendants "did not have adequate defence during trials".

He also said he wanted to investigate "particularly disturbing" reports of mentally handicapped people being put to death in defiance of the convention.

Mr Ndiaye said during the current tour that the "overall aim" was to "work gradually towards the abolition of the death penalty", although the UN spokesman in Washington, Joe Sills, said this was not the purpose of the project.

Mr Ndiaye was seeking to enforce "severe restrictions in terms of not extending the scope of the death penalty". He said the US was currently second in the world, after China, in expanding the death penalty.

Even in the US, the presence of a UN monitor trying to impose international regulations on American custom and practice riles the political rightwing, and is a traditional hobby-horse theme for Jesse Helms, the chairman of the Senate foreign relations committee.

Mr Helms, who fought against the recent US payment of its debt to the UN, was not available yesterday to comment on Mr Ndiaye's tour.

But an official in his office said: "Sounds like it's none of his business. And what's it like on death row in Senegal, I'd like to know."

The Cambodia National Theatre in Phnom Pehn performs the ancient art of shadow puppetry, wielding cowhide puppets against a back-lit canvas PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID VAN DER VEEN

Fear of hoax delays book

Joanna Coles in New York

IT WAS supposed to be a sensational find which would rewrite the legend of the explorer Marco Polo. According to the manuscript, purportedly from the 13th century, a Jewish Italian merchant called Jacob D'Ancona visited China four years before Marco Polo and wrote diaries chronicling hitherto unknown details about life there.

David Selbourne, an Oxford academic, was given the documents in Italy, translated them and proclaimed them genuine. They were to be published next month in a volume called The City of Light.

But yesterday the New York publisher Little, Brown said it was postponing publication because it was unsure the material on which the book is based was genuine. Several academics were also sceptical. Jonathan Spence, a specialist in Chinese history at Yale, said he doubted the documents' veracity.

Philippa Harrison, chief executive of Little, Brown UK, refused to comment on her parent company's decision, but said: "It is inconceivable that the book is a hoax."

She said she had expected rival scholars to pour scorn on Mr Selbourne's efforts. "It's part of that world, everyone defends their territory.

"It was written largely in Italian, Hebrew, Latin, Greek and Arabic. For anyone to have written that on vellum as a hoax . . ."

But she said she had not seen the originals, nor had they been carbon-dated. She could not explain why their unidentified owner had approached Mr Selbourne.

Words of peace ring hollow as Netanyahu accused of reneging

Julian Borger in Jerusalem

THE ISRAELI-Palestinian agreement to resume peace talks began to ring hollow yesterday, only hours after it was clinched with United States help in New York, as the Israeli prime minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, vowed to continue expanding Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

Palestinian leaders accused Mr Netanyahu of reneging on Monday's agreement to consider a pause in settlement construction as part of a new round of talks aimed at implementing earlier accords and paving the way for a comprehensive Israeli-Palestinian peace deal.

The US secretary of state, Madeleine Albright, said Monday's deal had halted a "downward spiral" in relations, but critics said Mr Netanyahu's defiant remarks exposed the emptiness of the agreement.

The Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, sought support from King Hassan of Morocco for an "urgent Arab summit meeting" on the troubled Middle East peace process. Mr Arafat arrived in the Moroccan capital Rabat, his third stop on a North African tour to line up Arab leaders for a summit to decide a common policy on the peace process. He denounced "Israel's intransigence and non-respect of the Oslo accords".

Ghassan Khatib, a Palestinian political analyst, said: "The resumption of talks means nothing in itself unless you can make progess. What prevented progress before was the gap between the two sides' positions. Those positions are even further apart now."

Mr Khatib said the continuation of talks without a settlement freeze could even hamper progress towards lasting peace by eroding Palestinian public support for the peace process and undermining the Palestinian Authority.

The relentless growth of Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza has become an explosive issue.

The number of settlers living in the Palestinian territories has risen by 50 per cent since 1992, and there are more than 300,000 in the West Bank and East Jerusalem alone. They have dramatically tilted the political scene by established themselves on land which Palestinians expected to become the core of an independent state after the 1993 Oslo peace accords.

The last round of peace-implementation talks broke down in March after work started on a new Jewish settlement on Arab land in Har Homa, south-east of Jerusalem.

Tension was further increased by the Jewish occupation last month of houses in another Arab district of Jerusalem, Ras al-Amoud.

Israeli-Palestinian relations foundered altogether after two suicide bomb attacks in Jerusalem in July and September by the Islamic militant group Hamas.

Jerusalem's mayor, Ehud Olmert, said yesterday that Jewish settlements in East Jerusalem would continue whatever happened at the negotiating table. Mr Olmert's often stated aim is to ring the city with Jewish neighbourhoods, pre-empting Palestinian claims on the eastern districts as a future national capital.

Observers say the longer the settlements are allowed to grow, the more difficult it will be for an Israeli government to order a halt, let alone surrender them to any future Palestinian state.

The crux of the deal brokered by Mrs Albright was that in return for the Palestinian Authority's continued suppression of Hamas, peace talks would resume along two tracks.

NEXT Monday, eight technical committees are due to resume work — abandoned six months ago — on the implementation of past deals on a Palestinian airport and seaport in Gaza and a permanent safe-passage route for Palestinians between Gaza and the West Bank. A week later higher-level talks should open in Washington on the bigger issues, including joint counter-terrorist measures, Jewish settlements, Israeli troop withdrawals from the West Bank and Gaza, and the possibility of accelerated talks aimed at reaching a comprehensive Israeli-Palestinian agreement by next year.

After the Har Homa and Ras al-Amoud controversies, the Palestinan Authority vowed not to resume discussions until settlement construction was frozen, but in New York its negotiators accepted considerably less than a freeze. All they were promised was a "time-out" (break) from "unilateral actions" (diplomatic code for the construction of settlements and the bulldozing of Palestinian homes).

Mr Netanyahu made the Palestinian climbdown abundantly clear yesterday morning when he told journalists: "You know we are building in the settlements, and making natural growth of the settlements possible, and I don't intend to change our policy."

Israeli soldiers guard the Beit Hadassah settlement in Hebron PHOTOGRAPH: NAYEF HASHLAMOUN

Green policy tainted by racial slant

A claim that immigration threatens the environment has split the ecology movement, writes **Christopher Reed** in Los Angeles

THE long flirtation of some United States environmentalists with racist views on population and immigration has been exposed by an ideological dispute within a leading green organisation, the San Francisco-based Sierra Club.

The club, a leader of the mainstream environmental movement in the US, was founded in 1892 by an immigrant Scottish conservationist, John Muir, who described Indians as filthy savages.

On its annual ballot next March the club is putting before its 550,000 members a proposal which reverses its neutrality on US population growth, supports the notion that over-population is the crucial environmental menace facing America, and claims that immigrants are the main contributors towards it.

Either outcome to this dispute could damage the US ecological movement. A victory for the neo-Malthusians would alienate important support from immigrant groups and their politicians, cause the resignation of Sierra staff and members, and fracture the troubled mainstream green movement in America.

Followers of the 19th century English clergyman Thomas Malthus argue that unrestrained human breeding threatens the world with disaster.

Defeat for the proposition would halt long-sought alliances between mainstream environmental leaders and anti-immigration groups which, although politically risky, would accord with establishment green thinking. Many of them believe the influx of poor (and non-white) newcomers threatens the country's resources, and thus its environment.

"This has always been an embarrassing agenda in the US movement," says Jeffrey St Clair, editor of the Wild Forest Review. "The history here goes back 100 years, when key conservationists advocated enforced limitation on people's reproduction that was dangerously close to Nazi eugenics later on."

Contemporary thinkers like the Stanford University biologist Paul Erlich, whose 1968 best-seller The Population Explosion, published by the Sierra Club, forecast ecological disaster from the "population explosion", have continued the tradition. Dr Erlich's wife, who with her husband has advocated enforced sterilisation, is a club board member.

Leading greens in the Big Six moderate eco-groups in the US have long been associated with factions such as Zero Population Growth, which argues that America's population growth, of which 55 per cent comes from immigrants and their children, menaces its natural resources.

They are opposed by a progressive bloc which says that consumption, not reproduction, is the problem, and that prosperity lowers birth rates. Brad Erickson, of the Political Ecology Group, stresses that the US, with 5 per cent of the planet's population, uses a third of its resources.

"The board of directors of Chevron petroleum consumes 100 times the resources of a score of villages in Bangladesh. It's always the poor and wretched who are asked to stop breeding, never the people advocating the idea. It's a class and racist based attitude," he said.

He calls the neo-Malthusian view "the greening of hate", in which "environmental arguments are used to disguise a racist desire to make America white".

"My group represents non-whites interested in the ecology. To say they or their views are inferior is a racist insult," he said.

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Blair's affordable vision

Behind his tactics lies an impressive strategy

THE MANTRA is the staple of modern political rhetoric. The theme of a conference speech in the electronic age emerges through the constant repetition of key words and phrases, some aimed at the audience in the hall, others at the television audience beyond. The most loaded words in yesterday's mantra were unmissable: Britain, British, country, nation, people, modernise, change, reform, hard choices, duty, vision, compassion, giving. The first five words in that string were repeated nearly 150 times in all. There was no doubt which audience Tony Blair was preoccupied with. It was the speech of a Prime Minister to his country rather than a leader to his party.

There was almost no seaside political knockabout, few jibes at the defeated enemy. It was a speech which coupled enlightened patriotism with doses of hard realism and tinges of McMurrayan Christianity. It did not set the hall alight in quite the way that might have been anticipated after the 18-year drought. Some of the patriotic rhetoric — full of shining beacons and visions of greatness-once-more — verged on deepish purple. But, in general, it was a thoughtful, disciplined and skilfully-balanced speech, which was received inside the hall with enthusiasm and respect. The surface was all warmth, but underneath there was a steely determination. Mr Blair wants two terms.

He wants to go down as the leader of a goverment which will be "remembered for all time . . . one of the great, radical, reforming governments in British history." He is for compassion, but compassion with a hard edge. Greatness as a nation can only come about through hard choices. Hard choices can only be realised by modernisation.

Though he seemed more at ease with his own party — there was little of the hectoring tone of previous years — Mr Blair is not about to let it sit back and luxuriate in the fruits of victory. "Hard choices" is barely-concealed code for a wholesale attack on the structure of welfare and benefits, with a shift from public to private, and from funding provision to organising provision. He wants to be seen as a modern man leading a modern country.

But first the country must recognise the extent of its modern crisis. An Old Labour speech would have unceremoniously dumped the blame for the crisis in health, welfare, education, crime and the family firmly at the door of 18 years of Tory misrule. This was an altogether more grown-up speech. There were no magic wands or instant answers. The specific new initiatives, slipped in as he went along, were of a relatively modest nature: further advances in the cabling-up and computerisation of Britain's schools; one more new hospital; a reversal of the previous government's plans to cut back special-needs teaching. "A small, but important thing", Mr Blair called this last — welcome — stroke. Small but important things are pure Clinton. But Blair's flair for affordable, pragmatic politics is underpinned by an impressive vision and strategic sense, not to mention a 170-odd seat majority.

Mr Blair unashamedly paid tribute to Liberal heroes as well as Labour ones. House of Lords reform, an intolerance of crime, support for the family, a realistic commitment to improving educational and health provision, stringent economic controls . . . there would have been differences of emphasis, but there is little there that could not have come from William Hague or Paddy Ashdown. Mr Blair's great achievement is that, even four years ago, such a speech would have been impossible from a Labour leader. There are, indeed, hard choices ahead. But after yesterday, no-one in his party can say they hadn't been warned.

Helping Emma to university

There is still a serious gap in Blair's education revolution

EMMA from Ellesmere Port stepped into the spotlight yesterday. She had written to thank the Prime Minister for the summer schools which Labour introduced this year. The education of many other 11-year-olds has been helped by this programme — many of them from poor homes. But what happens when they get to 18? The chance of going on to university will be even less than today. Over the last 20 years, higher education in Britain has moved from an elite to a mass system, but access is still not open to all. Over 80 per cent of children in social class one (professional) families go on to university, compared to less than 20 per cent in social class five. Fewer than 10 per cent go from unskilled homes. One purpose of expanding higher education was to give bright children in poor homes new opportunities. Instead, the new places are going to less bright children from middle-income homes. A prime minister who rightly criticised past education policy for its concentration on the elite at the expense of all children, needs to look again at his proposals for university maintenance loans and tuition fees.

Labour was right to introduce tuition fees. Universities are in dire financial straits. They receive 50 per cent less per pupil than 20 years ago. Students from middle-income homes should make a contribution for the reason that the Dearing Committee set out in the summer — because of the benefits they receive from higher education and the 20 per cent gain, on average, they will achieve in earnings. The £1,000 annual tuition fee is only one-quarter of the cost. Where Labour has gone wrong is in withdrawing maintenance grants which children from low-income homes have until now been receiving. Our new analysis page set out the cost yesterday. Students from poor families, even though they will be exempted from the tuition fees, will end up owing £10,000 in maintenance loans — £5,000 more than at present. Even though Labour's loans system will allow repayments over a longer period and at a lower rate than the current Tory scheme, more students from poor homes will be deterred. Far from widening opportunities, Labour has narrowed them.

What a radical government should have done was to continue the maintenance grants — and even increase them — for poor students while introducing Blair bursaries for tuition fees. It could also introduce special allowances for poor pupils to stay on into sixth form.

It is not too late. Although the unions are backing the Government's line, a united protest from the constituency section at today's Labour conference could still force ministers to review their position. A key test of Tony Blair's goal — to lead one of the great reforming governments in British history — is how much it widens opportunity. The current proposals are still designed for the few rather than all. Emma deserves a summer school place — and a chance to go on to university.

A sorry tale of a delayed apology

Atonement won't be complete until the archives are opened

IT IS NEVER too late to apologise, but this particular account is long overdue. More than 75,000 French and foreign Jews would transit through the council estate of Drancy near Le Bourget airport before being loaded into cattle trucks. Only two bishops in the Southwest spoke out. There were many acts of individual resistance, but the hierarchy backed the Vichy regime.

Breaking the church's silence is no longer an act of courage or even controversy — except to the National Front leader Jean-Marie Le Pen who finds it an "absolute scandal". It is three years since the Pope asked Catholics to repent for failing in their moral duty to the Jews. Yesterday Parisian bishop Olivier de Berranger apologised for the sins of the church's fathers — to the descendants of those to whom the apology was owed. It had to be said because it hadn't been said before — but it has taken a long time.

Anti-semitism in the official church may have disappeared yet a reticence persisted — as it did too often elsewhere. Francois Mitterrand's ambiguous attitude imposed a constraint only removed two years ago when President Chirac declared Vichy to have been a criminal regime. Documentaries such as "The Sorrow and the Pity" were once kept off the TV screen. Now Vichy has become a daily theme in the run up to the trial of senior official Maurice Papon, accused of ordering deportations.

History still requires a fuller explanation. How far did the church's complicity stem from a doctrine which effectively denied that Jesus was a Jew? Were its leaders seduced by the possibility of re-establishment under Marshal Petain? Such questions can only be answered from the archives — still religiously closed. The church's most useful contribution now would be to throw them wide open.

Letters to the Editor

In defence of my father

IT was painful to read Ian Aitken's abuse of my father, Hugh Gaitskell (An old spectre at the feast, September 27). Whatever Hugh may have been, he was not a hater. Yes, he believed that the re-armament programme was necessary — this was the view of the Government, including [Nye] Bevan initially; yes, he shared the view of many in the Labour Party that pensions should be a priority.

The Budget was a compromise, worked out with spending departments, including Health, agreed by the Cabinet. It was based mainly on higher taxes, with a limit to growth in NHS spending to off-set a rise in pensions.

Tackling NHS spending was not new. [Stafford] Cripps with other ministers had already taken steps to control it, including an option to make charges. Bevan himself introduced the framework for prescription charges in 1949 — not imposed in 1951, when charges were limited to contributions to the cost of false teeth and spectacles.

Of course, there was a power struggle and Hugh had a sticking point: he was not prepared to announce the spending limit without the means agreed to achieve it. He would not conceal or fudge the issue.

The differences between the two men at this time became wide-ranging and important. But my father's admiration for Bevan's gifts is on record right up to early 1951, which perhaps has a bearing on their later co-operation.
Julia McNeal.
18 Frognal Gardens,
London NW3 6XA.

NYE was wrong to ditch the unilateralists at the Brighton conference years ago. That was the time when action by Britain alone could have affected the course of events and the bomb might have been banned. Today, the focus is on the UN and it is at the international level that our country can best exert its pressure for a nuclear-free world.

New Labour has expressed enthusiasm for the elimination of nuclear weapons and the way has been indicated by the Government's reduction of the operational power of the Trident fleet. Field Marshal Lord Carver and his fellow members of the Canberra Commission have marked out the course. Now is the time for Robin Cook to raise the matter at the Security Council.
Lord Jenkins of Putney.
75 Kenilworth Court,
Lower Richmond Road,
London SW15 1EN.

I too was bullied

I HOPE the unfortunate death you report (Bullied girl kills herself, September 30) will make some realise the pain that bullying causes. It is hard to believe that children are born with the capability of hate, but it seems to develop in their formative years. For many years, I was taunted because of my size and the fact that my parents were divorced; I was made to feel like an outsider and very alone. Primary school was an awful experience that made me, as an 11-year-old, try to commit suicide. It did not work, but the pain was still there.

I am now starting my second year at St Hilda's College, Oxford; I have good friends, people who see me for who I am and not what I look like. I am still fat and my parents are still divorced, but it no longer matters.

To those who have been bullied, and still believe the words that tormented them, I say: remember you have the same right to love and to be happy as they do.
Clare Alexander.
18 Tyndale Road,
Oxford OX4 1JL.

An issue to rock Brighton

WE have four children, three of whom are at university and a fourth, Peter, who is in the sixth form (Blunkett gives no ground to critics, September 29). As an Anglican vicar my net income is about £9,500 a year and, together with my wife's income as a part-time teacher, our combined income is around £17,000. At present we make a parental contribution of £5 a year towards each of the children's maintenance grant and their tuition fees are paid. Even so, this will mean that two of our older three children will already leave university with debts of some £5,000 each. The third will face a debt of some £7,500 as hers is a four-year course.

If Peter chooses to go to university, he will face a debt of well over £15,000 when maintenance grants are withdrawn. This is an appalling burden to lay on someone at that stage of their life. Already our children take on holiday and part-time jobs to try and reduce this burden. They are working long hours for low pay and it is not helping their studies. I doubt also whether it is helping the local economy and people desperately seeking work to keep their families.

This proposal rankles above and beyond the unfairness of our youngest son being faced with a very different situation from that of his older siblings.

Richer parents who can afford to pay much of the maintenance grant through a parental contribution will notice little difference. But parents in our situation will have to watch our children moonlighting in low-paid jobs and leaving university with a massive debt burden.
(Fr) David Mumford.
St Peter's Vicarage,
Druridge Drive
Newcastle upon Tyne NE5 3LP.

THE essence of Mr Blunkett's logic is that it costs the Government £18,000 more to educate someone to the point of getting first degree. This leads to his conclusion: "Let's not shed tears for those who are going to earn a great deal more money because of the degree they get".

But the majority of those who get a worthwhile first degree (or higher) will have put in an enormous amount of personal effort and, at the end of their working life (making some simple assumptions), will have paid about £250,000 more tax than those who didn't go on to further education and, quite possibly, lived off state support.

This represents an excellent return on an investment of £18,000 and is far from the situation painted of "them earning a higher income while they make no contribution towards it". Is this the politics of envy revisited?
Peter Fields.
High Street,
Norley, Cheshire.

THERE is a sex discrimination aspect of the student tuition fees proposal which your graphic on graduate earnings demonstrates vividly (A learning curve too steep, September 30). While earnings for male and female graduates may top those of their non-graduate counterparts, the gap between male and female graduate earnings is far greater, with male graduates in their forties and fifties earning double that of female graduates of that age.

As the debt incurred by the introduction of tuition fees and abolition of maintenance grant will affect men and women students equally, the conclusion must be that many female graduates will be landed with a lifetime of debt. They will still be paying off their student debt by the time their daughters want to go to university.
(Dr) Liz Allen.
Head, Higher Education Unit,
NATFHE, The University &
College Lecturers' Union,
27 Britannia Street,
London WC1X 9JP.

In memory of Mr Mandelson

SPECULATION on the meaning of Peter Mandelson's failure to be elected to the Labour Party NEC (You haven't got a blank cheque, September 30) is needless. It is not so much his ideology — David Blunkett and Harriet Harman are suspect, for instance — as his sheer insubstantiality.

It was all too typical that Mr Mandelson achieved a high public profile after May 1 despite possessing no portfolio. He might have seemed more human if he had been photographed visiting a factory or a hospital ward or maybe even making a speech in the House of Commons. No, Mr Mandelson offers no added value; he's simply a political derivatives trader ebbing and flowing with the market.
Laurence Pollock.
(Labour Party conference delegate, mid-Bedfordshire).
c/o The Amalfi,
Marine Parade, Brighton.

HOPEFULLY Peter Mandelson will accept the verdict of his party's rank and file and not spend much of the forthcoming parliamentary year ingratiating himself with fellow MPs to become one of the three who will sit on the NEC under Labour's new internal chain of command.

However, it is doubtful that such a high profile minister, albeit one without a portfolio, will recede into the background of an administration that seeks to be the most radical reforming government in history.
W R Jackson.
5 St John Street,
Mansfield,
Notts NG18 1QH.

DOES Gordon Brown's commitment to find a proper job for everyone who wants a proper job and doesn't have one now extend to Peter Mandelson?
Jon Rogers.
25 Harvard Road,
London SE13 6SE.

I VOTED for Ken Livingstone and the reasons are obvious. With an astonishing shift to the right in the quest for power, and more than a hint that the Blairite crew really are closet Tories, as opposed to mere opportunists, it is more essential than ever to have articulate people around who will not allow the party to forget that it is supposed to stand for something.
Mark Davis.
11 Chartfield Avenue,
London SW15 6DT.

Feedback

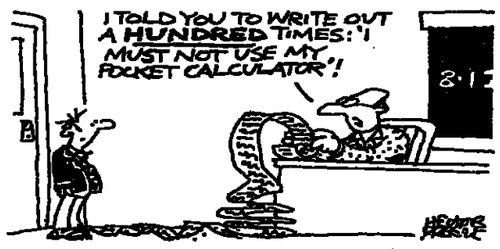
TWENTY years ago, I not only allowed my 15-year-old daughter to smoke cannabis at home for similar reasons to Janet Wakeman (Letters, September 29), but I had a puff myself. I have cerebral palsy and, to my astonishment, I found this experimental puff instantly eased my muscle spasm. Now, my daughter's usage is ancient history, but, at 65, I still smoke as a most effective palliative.
Antonia Lister-Kaye.
33 Harrington Road,
Brighton BN1 6RF.

ANDREW Moncur mentioned the unintentional typographical errors which can cause such confusion when encountered by the reader (And another thing, G2, September 29). I can only therefore assume it was intentional that, in Ed Douglas's article on Tibet (The rape of Tibet), we read: "The monastery of 360 monks where Palden grew up and cared for his dying uncle was *raised* to the ground in the same period."
Andrea Wilkes.
41 Petresfield Way,
West Horndon, Brentwood,
Essex CM13 3TG.

YOUR history of the Hammersmith Palais failed to mention that, in the '30s, it was used as an ice rink, for which the rectangular shape of the site was ideal (Hammersmith Palais to close, September 29). Is there still a market for an ice rink?
F D Whitehead.
Treventure, New Hall Lane,
Small Dole, Henfield,
West Sussex BN5 9YH.

BUCKINGHAM Palace was quick to describe the reissue of Andrew Morton's book as "particularly sad" (Palace fury over Diana memoirs, September 30). Is not the publication of a plethora of other books on the same subject — albeit uncritical of the palace — equally sad?
Jim Golcher.
5 Blakesley Hill,
Greens Norton, Towcester,
Northants NN12 8BP.

CAN you explain how the wet T-shirt picture masquerading as fashion (Report, September 30) is any different from page three of the Sun?
Paul Oldham.
4 Church Lane,
Milton, Cambridge.



Let's figure this one out

BRYAN Chapman (Letters, September 29) questions the use of mental arithmetic in an age of electronic calculators. If for no other reason, proficiency in mental arithmetic is valuable to confirm that the result obtained with a calculator is reasonable.

For example, if I multiply 8.125 by 2.54 (to convert inches to centimetres), I expect an answer slightly greater than 20.

The modern calculator is indeed a boon, saving many hours of tedious manual calculation. However, it is easy to push the wrong button occasionally. Sadly, many users uncritically accept the most ludicrous results obtained with a calculator, simply because they are unable to estimate (mentally) what the correct answer should be.
(Prof) Alan T Collins.
Department of Physics,
King's College, London,
Strand,
London WC2R 2LS.

Please include a full postal address on all letters. We may edit them; shorter letters are more likely to appear. We regret we cannot acknowledge those not used

The incurables

I HAVE worked internationally on paedophile cases and was horrified to read your Leader (September 29) suggesting that there should be "some form of halfway house to test a paedophile's readiness for release". Why can people not grasp that paedophilia is an incurable condition? I have never, in all these years, ever seen a paedophile recant or even agree that their "love" or "need" for a sexual relationship with a child or children is grossly abnormal.

In my book, the only rehabilitated paedophile is a dead paedophile. I know this is a totally unfashionable view but "to test a paedophile's readiness for release", as you put it, means that, should the paedophile fail the test, another child will suffer not just sexual abuse but also a life that is blighted forever.

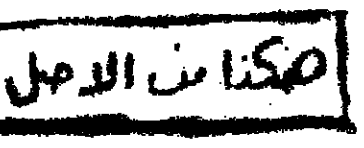
Convicted paedophiles should be offered permanent, humane incarceration. The alternative is further damaged and destroyed children.
Erin Pizzey.
Twickenham,
Middx.

A Country Diary

TAMAR VALLEY: Cotehele, Pentillie, Hardicott and Mount Edgcumbe are some of the estates letting farms along the valley. On the Cornish side, it is customary for new tenancies to be taken up on September 29 but, across the river, farmers tend to move earlier in the year, on Lady Day. Twenty years ago, when rents in Cornwall and Devon averaged under £10 an acre, most local agricultural valuers carried out five to 10 Michaelmas valuations as farmers retired and new tenants took over vacated land. With the continuing trend of amalgamating holdings, and tenants' sons exercising their succession rights, fewer farms now come up for rent. As soon as possible after the quarter day, valuers for the incoming and outgoing tenants meet on the farm, accompanied by their clients and the landlord's agent. They value the quitting tenant's rights: improvements to fixtures and buildings; remaining severed crops (hay, straw and silage); temporary pastures and residual manurial values. Fields, hedges, house and buildings are inspected for dilapidation, for evidence of neglect and lack of maintenance. In autumn's mellow sun, or drizzling rain, the experts examine every gate, ditch and fence, occasioning much argument and dramatic threats of arbitration for the benefit of their respective clients. Lunch, provided by the new occupier, is a more amiable affair with reminiscence of earlier days and of attempts to get the opposing valuer tipsy, less astute for the afternoon session. Since the Agricultural Tenancies Act of 1995, new lifetime tenancies are not granted, replaced by fixed terms, rents starting at around £60 per acre for a five-year lease, on bare land with no buildings or farmhouse. In comparison, in 1868, George Snell, uncle of my great, great grandmother, obtained a lease for 21 years from the Duchy of Cornwall for Park and Waddevers Tenements at Landulph. Total rent was £65 for house, buildings and 25 acres.

VIRGINIA SPIERS

هكذا من الاصل



Diary

Matthew Norman

WHILE we await his "critical biography" of Kenyan dictator Daniel Arap Moi, it is good to see Andrew Morton keeping himself busy, *rehashing* all his Diana stuff and betraying her as *the source* for that book. As well respected as he is today — indeed, Andrew is widely regarded as the finest royal reporter in the Daily Star's history — it is a shock to learn how nearly his career was stillborn. As a Mirror Group trainee, he was seconded to the Tavistock Times, and his last job for this Mirror-owned rag was to write up a batch of wedding reports. *Giving* his gorgeously puckish sense of humour its head, *Andrew* included in one the tender phrase: "The bride looked radiant in a Dutch Cap trimmed with lace." When *the* bride and her mother complained, Andrew had to plead not to be fired, swear never to do it again, and — as punishment — *accept* another six months in Tavistock. Had the Mirror Group been stricter, he would never have gone to its Manchester office, never have joined the Star, never have *written* his book . . . and, who can say for sure, Diana and Charles *might* never have divorced. On such minutiae does the course of history turn.

OUR sympathies to Peter Rowell on his suspension as a newsreader on HTV. Mr *Rowell was* getting ready to give the regional bulletin yesterday morning while GMTV's national news was showing pictures of Princess Diana in a low cut dress. Unaware that a sound link to his studio had been opened, Mr Rowell said to a workmate: "She had huge knockers". No doubt *his* employers will be lenient with the poor chap, who is said *to* be gravely upset. And besides, as an HTV spokesman said, "He made a comment which, because of the unfortunate juxtapositon, could well have been misinterpreted."

AS we have already learnt from Book of the Month, Ronnie Kray: *Sorted*, by *Ronnie's* widow Kate, the late *gangster was nothing if not* a gent (you were nothing to Ronnie Kray unless he called you a slag and a rat) and a *true* romantic (his one bequest to Kate was the 9mm Mauser semi automatic — wrapped in a yellow duster — with which he shot George Cornell). Knowing this, you may find *details of his funeral* almost unbearably poignant. "I got out the cigarettes I'd brought with me," she recalls, "10 John Player Specials. Only 10 because, still in my heart, I wanted him to give up smoking, knowing it was bad for him. I unwrapped the cellophane," she continues, *"and put them in the* coffin close to the right hand, within easy reach. That's what he wanted."

THE announcement that Hammersmith Palais is to close prompts the marvellous Lib Dem peer *Conrad Russell* to recollect a story told by his *father, Bertrand.* Outside the Palais once stood a sign reading: "The management reserves the right to refuse entry to any lady it thinks proper" . . . a classic lesson, Bertie would often observe, about the importance of care in using English. And *still, knowing* that, they can dare to close the Palais?

THE Bookseller, house magazine for the once genteel world of publishing, carries an advertisement *of chilling* honesty. "Hark," says the advert, *for* Select Music's talking tapes, "the Christmas cash tills ring . . ."

IT is with some excitement that I announce the publication of A History Of The American People, the latest magnum opus from the sane and rational Paul Johnson. While we await the signed courtesy copy from Paul himself, we turn to a review of the book by the BBC's Gavin Esler. Writing in that splendid and beautifully written magazine, the *Literary Review*, Mr Esler regrets the presence of some howlers in Paul's text, and he picks out *the following* classic. "When Kennedy said 'ich bin *ein Berliner*', Johnson perversely translates *this as* 'I am a *hamburger*'."

Time for Blair to share the limelight

Commentary

Jonathan Freedland

in Brighton

TONY BENN is entertaining old chums in Brighton with a bit of *vintage* Bennite humour. The old man of the left can be seen bustling along the seafront, clutching a pile of leaflets and telling friends that Labour has replaced the one member, one vote system known as OMOV with a new one called OLAV — One Leader, All Votes.

Labour anoraks, who tend to go in for acronyms, *chuckle* at that. They know that, like all the best jokes, it contains a stab of truth. For one of the clearest impressions left all week in Brighton — and confirmed yesterday — is that the much-fabled New *Labour* Project is increasingly the tale of one man.

The Government's heaviest hitters have done their best, but they have somehow failed to stir the hall or leave much of a ripple outside. On Monday Gordon Brown pressed every activist button. He resuscitated the once-discarded Labour *ideal of full* employment, he even used the word socialist — a term conspicuously avoided by his more-fastidious boss. But still Gordon Brown *could not* rouse the troops. They denied him a standing ovation, keeping their bums firmly on their seats.

John Prescott gets laughs, Mo Mowlam gets warmth and respect. Robin Cook will be heard diligently on Thursday, Clare Short will get some rebel cheers on the same day. But none of them sparks fire. All the conference oxygen is sucked up by the Leader; there is hardly any left for anyone else.

"It's all *about him, he's the* only one who can excite them," mused one Labourite yesterday, a backroom veteran of Tony Blair's two campaigns, first for the party leadership then for Downing Street. "*Without him, Labour* is nothing."

Blair does little *to discourage* the sentiment. On the contrary, yesterday he did the reverse, ever-so-gently belittling the Cabinet which serves him. Only a select handful of them were on the *platform*; *like the word* "Labour" on the backdrop, now shrunk to a discreet size, the rest had receded from view. Still, they were the butt of one of the Prime Minister's earliest jokes. Instructing the delegates on the realities of high office, he reported that "They really do say, 'Yes, Prime Minister'." Looking over his shoulder and waiting a beat, he clarified that he was talking about civil servants — "*Not the Cabinet*, obviously."

It was only a small ad-lib but, as he *confessed yesterday*, Mr Blair specialises in the "small, but important" gesture. His gag recalled the old Washington whisper about Ronald Reagan nodding off during meetings of his cabinet. *Aides leaked that story* deliberately, not to suggest the President was losing it — but to show how little his underlings mattered to him.

The Prime Minister is playing a similar, presidential game. He used the first person singular yesterday far more often than he invoked the Labour party. One departure from his prepared text was *telling*. "That is why we are here," was the planned line. "That's why *I'm* in *politics*," was how it came out. "I want . . ." was a frequent formulation. He talked of a report on global warming which "I commissioned". In the peroration, the party had been left behind altogether.

Now it was all [...]n May 1, the people [...]ed *me* with the task o[...]g their country into [...]w century . . . That [...]ritain *I* offer you."

Few politi[...]vil be-grudge Tony [...]s use of presidential [...]age and *imagery*, dow[...]he now-familiar, trun[...]entrance and the post[...]ose for the cameras [...] First Lady wife. [...]ds of government as [...]to escape party, to acq[...]power that transcends [...]. Francois Mitterand [...] it ff with his La Fran[...]e campaign in 1988, whe[...]regned the presidency [...]ruing as "Tonton," [...]ncl to the *nation*, abo[...]e pty feuding of his o[...]cialist party. Bill Clinton [...]oosfrom the [...]996 / "triangulating" [...]self between them and [...]publicans: *his* party lost, he w[...].

Tony Bl[...]as r yet travelled a[...] down that road. The na[...] of British system m[...] he *never quite* break[...] unl his fellow *execu*[...] in [...]s or Washington[...]e is elected directly[...] owes job to the majo[...] he ers in parliament[...]hat restraint apar[...] is *sing to be his* own[...]n — [...]th his own relationship w[...] the people.

S[...]r this all working swi[...]ingly[...] Labour polls sho[...] Blair w[...] an approval ratin[...]c' 93 per cent — a Sadda[...]el o[...]popularity. His cha[...]sa[...], coupled with an un[...]cap[...]bility to divine and pe[...]y [...] public mood, ha[...] given h[...] a mastery rare in democratic politics. Even without trying, he makes the others at Labour's top table *look like* dwarves.

But this poses risks for his *beloved project. For where* would it be without Tony Blair? This is the under-the-bus scenario that can never be discussed out loud. It probably sounds grandiose, but Mr Blair is to the New Labour mission what Yitzhak Rabin was to the Middle East peace process: it cannot happen without him. Israelis accepted Rabin's message of compromise because they trusted *him on security.* Similarly, voters believe the PM's message of "compassion with a hard edge" because, as a Labour leader, he has credibility on the "caring" issues, while his ultra-conservatism on tax-and-spending has made him credibly "hard." No one *else in Labour embodies quite* the same blend.

> Where would his beloved [...]ec[...] be without Tony Blair? This th[...] under-the-bus scenario th[...]car[...] never be discussed out lo[...]

A more obvious parallel is Margaret Thatcher. She, too, towered above her colleagues, always much more *primus* than *inter pares*. She, too, enjoyed a *charisma* that cast *all* others in her shadow. But, when she finally fell, her greatest weakness was exposed: she had left no successor. Perhaps her error was to stay too long, so that the moment passed for Messrs Lawson, Howe, Hurd and Heseltine.

Tony Blair has fastened his grip much tighter than Mrs Thatcher had at the same stage. She had to deal with a sizeable cabal of wets in her cabinet and a majority of *Heathites in her parliamentary* party. Today's PM has just one or two wobblers in his cabinet and a healthy Blairite majority in his Commons contingent. He is fully in charge. Still, if the dream he articulated yesterday is to come true, Tony Blair needs to start sharing the spotlight. After all, like the man said, this is the Giving Age.

Freedom comes with a high price-tag

George Monbiot

THERE has been a curious omission from the Labour Party conference. Among the tens of thousands *of words devoted to* education, health, even, surprisingly, the environment, scarcely a breath has been spared for one of Labour's central legislative reforms: a freedom of information act.

The optimistic interpretation of this absence is that nothing more needs be said, as freedom of information is already on its way. In December, the Government will publish a White Paper. A few months later, it will draft a bill. Why debate a done deal? *There seem to me to be several* good reasons. None of the fundamental questions which the impending legislation raises has yet been answered. Aside from a few chilling remarks by Jack Straw and Peter Mandelson about "necessary restrictions", we have no *idea what the scope of the* White Paper will be. We don't yet know whether or not local authorities and the remaining nationalised industries (such as British Nuclear Fuels) will be covered by the act. Will ministers still be allowed to sign public interest immunity certificates? Will the legislation be enforced by *the courts or by select committee?* Perhaps most disturbingly, no one in government is talking about what, precisely, "freedom" means. As campaigners are beginning to discover, availability of information does not necessarily equate to accessibility. For *the most extraordinary* charges are now being levied for information to which we are legally entitled. They amount to what the consultant Paul Mobbs has dubbed an "information tax": a significant, often crippling, disincentive to collect what belongs to us *already*.

Local authorities explain *the money they demand for* information as "photocopy charges". Some of them clearly need to change their office suppliers. Carmarthenshire County Council now charges local people up to £2 a sheet for planning application copies.

Hertsmere District Council informs objectors that it will cost them £7 a sheet to copy pages documenting the deals it has struck with developers. Sandwell Borough Council in Birmingham has asked campaigners for £250 to copy 29 pages listing the polluting activities *it claims to* have banned. As the Campaign for Freedom of Information has *shown, government* departments tend to employ more inventive means of pricing inconvenient information out of the market. Last year, for example, the Ministry for Amalgamating Fact and Fiction announced that 26 rendering or incineration plants were breaking the laws introduced to eliminate BSE. The *campaigner Alan Watson* wrote to MAFF, asking which plants these were. After three months, MAFF replied that listing the 26 names and addresses would incur an "administration charge" of £1,293, *while a legal opinion* about whether or not it could release this information would cost a further £5195. Watson pointed out that this was more than the offending companies had been fined.

The most audacious shyster of all is the agency which holds the information in which there is the most pressing public interest: the Health and Safety Executive. In 1994, it told Hazards Magazine that compiling *a list of its actions* against premises breaking the Health and Safety at Work Act would cost £266,000. Even more astonishing than the price was the implication that the HSE did not already possess this information.

Indeed, in some cases this "information tax" would be better dubbed an "*incompetence tax*": *people's requests* often expose the utter disorganisation of government departments. When Transport 2000 wanted to know how the government's local transport budget had been spent, the Department of Transport charged it £600 for the information it needed. *It* later asked to see the pressure *group's analysis, as it hadn't* done one of its own.

WE would be naive to assume that a freedom of information act will necessarily address these impositions. Neither the Open Government Code of *Practice nor the Local Government* (Access to Information) Act have prevented those who regard an educated population as a dangerous one from charging us for the exercise of our rights. Other proposed rights legislation suggests that, if anything, we should expect an increase in the price of freedom. A fortnight *ago, Michael Meacher*, the environment minister, said landowners would be able to exact payment from people enjoying the forthcoming right to roam in the countryside. The best things in life will be charged at the going rate. If, as we are told, the *inequality of the future* will develop around the gulf between the information rich and the information poor, then there can be little doubt — unless this oppressive tax is scrapped — that those already living on the wrong side of the tracks will stay *there. Access to information* will begin to look rather like access to the law.

As Washington threatens the French oil firm Total [...]wh s[...]nctions for supping with Iran, **Ian Black** predicts that calm diplomacy will [...]a[...]ert full-scale trade war

War dance in the Gulf

TEN years ago, in the *majlis* in Tehran, President Ali Akbar *Hashemi Rafsanjani* crowed with gleeful *contempt* as he produced the bible sent him by Ronald Reagan, c/o Colonel Oliver North, as a goodwill token designed to secure the release of American hostages held by Iranian-backed Shi'ite Muslim militants in Lebanon. The United States has had serious *difficulties dealing with Iran* since Ayatollah Khomeini toppled the Shah from his peacock throne in 1979. Now Bill Clinton is firing the opening salvoes in what could be a new transatlantic trade war, though it is only the latest noisy instalment in the old and *long-running story of* America's obsession with truculent *men in turbans*.

Official Washington insists its threat to impose sanctions against the French oil giant, Total, is perfectly justified. Massive foreign investment in Iran's oil and gas industry, it argues, helps the country acquire weapons of mass *destruction. Evidence* gathered by intelligence agencies (including Britain's MI6) that it has an active nuclear programme cannot be dismissed as lightly as suspicions about Saddam Hussein's atomic ambitions before the Gulf war. And although Iran's strident *ideological support* and practical assistance to terrorists *are not* the *cause* of the crisis in the Middle East peace process, its role is destructive. Worse, in a way, is its habit of torturing or killing its own dissidents, abroad as well as at home. In April a Berlin court *trying* the infamous "Mykonos" case provided a "smoking gun" that linked the assassination of Iranian Kurdish activists directly to Tehran. Iran is prickly, resists US hegemony and challenges *its allies in the* Gulf and beyond. It is also canny *enough to play off* Europe against America.

Some nevertheless believe change is in the air. Mohammed Khatemi, elected president in May, is a relative *liberal on domestic matters*, though there are few signs that he will adopt any new policies on regional or security issues. Ironically, before the Total contract, events were conspiring to ensure *that the US and EU were closing* ranks on handling Iran. *The Mykonos* verdict brought a suspension of the EU's "critical dialogue" — long viewed by Washington as a fig leaf for business as u[...]. It also forced Germany [...]e-examine its lucrative [...]*ionship* with Tehran [...] all EU *countries to wi*[...]w their ambassadors; [...]ite attempts to nego[...] a deal, none has yet [...]ed. Britain's failure to [...] progress over the Sal[...] Rushdie *fatwa* and the [...]nce of a *significant* [...]mercial relationship w[...]an place it even closer [...] usual to America — [...] many in Whitehall sa[...] Washington errs on th[...]e of demonising Britain fully shares European disapproval of *legislatin threatening* any company investing over $20 million [...]year in the Iranian (and Libyan) energy sectors. Its auth[...]r, the Republican Senator [...]lfonse d'Amato, produced a carbon copy of the controversial Helms-Burton law [...]n Cuba, forcing a reluctant Democratic administration to punish non-American companies operating in the US or actions in a third country — a sin against the orthodoxy of globalisation.

Part of the problem is America's status as the world's only superpower at a time when Europe, though advanced in pursuing its trading interests — and generally cynical enough about human rights — is incapable of agreeing a common foreign policy. Washington's pursuit of "dual containment" — of Iraq and Iran — is the cause of *bitter* resentment in the Middle East and beyond. And sanctions, a blunt instrument that harms ordinary people far more than their rulers, are going out of fashion. Only last week the US and Britain were ambushed at the United Nations when Russia joined *Arab and African states in* attacking sanctions imposed on Libya because of the Lockerbie affair.

Far more severe measures in force against Iraq since the invasion of Kuwait now enjoy little active support beyond Washington and London as *others, particularly the* French, wait for them to wither and die. Total is one of over 60 companies poised to sign oil deals with Iraq when the embargo goes. Saddam Hussein, sitting on the world's second largest oil reserves after Saudi Arabia, *is a patient man*.

So far the US plans merely to "investigate" Total's contract. If the EU and the US fail to reach agreement on Iran by October 15, Brussels is to submit a formal complaint to the World Trade Organisation. But there is room for flexibility, and diplomats were already hinting yesterday at a moveable deadline. One likely solution would be for President Clinton to waive his right to punish Total, extract a cosmetically tougher EU line and deny Tehran a significant tactical victory. If cool heads reign on both sides of the Atlantic, it should be possible to avoid the commercial equivalent of a shooting war — and keep the real baddies firmly *in their boxes*.

Labour's sharp left tur[...]

Ken Livingstone delights in his NEC election win ov[...]landelson

THE significance of Monday's Labour National Executive results goes far beyond the individual votes for myself and Peter Mandelson. Detailed analysis also refutes the spin given in press briefings by senior party officials. Having spent the entire summer using the party machine to promote Mandelson's candidacy, they turned around on Monday night and claimed that the result reflected more upon Peter personally than the politics of the Labour membership.

The facts, however, show not simply a vote *against* Mandelson, but a surge in support for the left. *Overall*, there was the biggest increase in *their vote since* the 1980s. The share of the vote *for the* seven candidates backed by the Socialist Campaign Group and Campaign for Labour Party Democracy had been *static* at 31 per cent of the total for the previous three years. This year it leapt to 39 per cent. *Among party* members the right and the left are now neck and neck.

As a result of some bad Government *decisions* on issues like tuition fees and the attempts *to* make debate illegitimate or dissent disloyal, *a significant* part of the middle ground *within the* party has moved to defend the its traditions before we are "modernised" into something more like Clinton's Democrats. It confirms the emergence of a broader, modernising New Left.

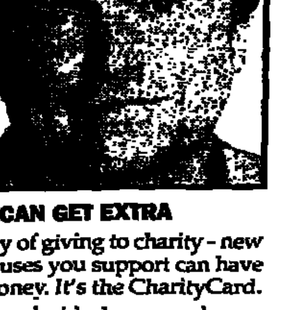
The headlines picked up the 43 per cent increase in my vote. But the vote of every left candidate *also* rose dra[...]ally — generally thr[...]r four times *more th*[...]e 11 per cent increase [...]he number of member[...]ting. Dennis Skinner[...]e increased 37 per cen[...]ne Abbott's 40 per cen[...]l the other left candid[...]between 29 and 55 per[...]. The left's vote rose c[...]ently across the board[...] newer MPs like Lynn[...]es as well as veteran [...]aigners like Dennis S[...]er. It cannot be expl[...]as a fluke thrown up b[...]dirky "beauty contest"

IT's *a profound in*[...]sinto the views of [...]*dinary members of* the[...]ur Party, voting in the[...]mes without the behin[...]-scenes bullying to wh[...]onference delegates ar[...] too frequently subje[...]. It was a shift to the left by the individual members of the party on a scale only previously seen in 195[...] and 1980 after Labour governments had gone down to defeat as a result of alienating their natural supporters with public spending cuts and pay freezes.

But on this occasion the rank and file have put a shot across the leadership's bows just months into a Government with the largest Labour majority in history. Furthermore, the NEC is elected by individual postal ballot, so this was not the verdict of the-much maligned activists who in fact do the work which wins elections, but of individual members. *That* is also why it is so absurd — *as well as* personally distasteful — to try, as leading *party officials* did, to put Monday's result down to Peter Mandelson's supposed individual failings. It is a sad irony that the off-the-record media briefings pioneered by Peter against the left should now be used to belittle his own standing in this way. Peter and myself have made our radically different views on economic policy, taxation, public spending and employment rights abundantly clear. The NEC election provided members with a rare opportunity. They clearly *think* that pensions, the NHS and education should *take priority* over Tory spending limits and *cutting corporation* tax.

A Labour Government with more than 400 MPs *should be able to* do at least as much for social justice *as we did in* the far more difficult economic circumstances of 1945. The government should listen to the party which, as Tony Blair reminded MPs at the very first meeting of the parliamentary party, we are all elected to represent. An arrogant or dismissive response would be the first step to converting the triumph of May 1 into another one-term government.

Ken Livingstone is Labour MP for Brent East



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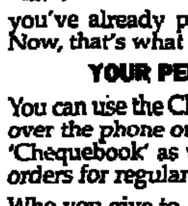

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CAF

Roy Lichtenstein

Pop with snap and crackle

IT IS difficult to think of Roy Lichtenstein, who has died of pneumonia at the age of 73, as other than a man of the 1960s, one of the brightest stars of the American Pop Art movement which shot to fame and notoriety in New York in 1961-62.

This was exactly when Britain's Pop painters — Kitaj, Hockney, Allen Jones and others — found themselves being loved and celebrated in the new colour supplements and on television. Who got there first can still be argued about: what is certain is that in those years the art world expanded enormously.

By the end of the sixties exhibitions on both sides of the Atlantic were already memorialising Pop art as though to write *finis* under it all, with gratitude, but also a lot of art-historical nit-picking. Though almost all of the stars on what was by then a truly international firmament have gone on twinkling, the movement as such had reached something akin to middle age, which in this context means senility. In any case, there was a new movement to come to grips with, Conceptual Art: much less fun and rarely as brilliant visually.

Of course, we had it easy in Britain, with Richard Hamilton, Eduardo Paolozzi and others, bringing commercial imagery and methods into their paintings and prints from the mid-1950s on. In America there was much more of a shock and a rumpus. I recall a public discussion at the old ICA in Dover Street about Pop at which we listened to well-known American critics denouncing their own artists as traitors to the high ideals of American expressionism and thus destroyers of art in general. There was none of the sudden, widespread enthusiasm in New York that we had in London. One of the big issues was whether doing paintings from advertising and from comic strips could possibly deserve the name of art.

Lichtenstein and Andy Warhol did not know each other when they both began to work with these sources. Lichtenstein had been exploring the use of Disney creatures in semi-abstract paintings and then also those much coarser images, small black-line newspaper advertisements for common goods such as sofas and golf balls. In 1956 he had even made a freehand, rather than exact, lithograph of a 10-dollar bill, flat on and filling the sheet the way Jasper Johns's painted American flags of that time filled their canvases.

In any case, this had all been part of a gradual development. Lichtenstein was born into a solid middle-class New York family. Painting was something of a hobby for teenaged Roy, but so was jazz, and he combined them in portraits of musicians. A summer school at the Art Students' League found him painting Bowery and Coney Island scenes under the tutelage of Reginald Marsh, himself a major New York social realist.

From this he went on to the School of Fine Arts at Ohio State University where he found himself fascinated by lectures on the psychology of vision and representation. US Army service brought him to Europe for the last years of the war, 1943-45, and a short course on French civilisation and language in Paris. Then he returned to Ohio State, studying and instructing and graduating in 1950.

STYLISTICALLY he moved between semi-abstract work in various Cubist manners and his personal version of Abstract Expressionism. He worked for some years as an engineering draftsman and then also briefly as a graphic artist while having almost annual one-man shows in New York, marrying and becoming a father. In 1960 he was appointed professor of Rutgers University where he met Alan Kaprow, the recent initiator of Happenings reflecting on consumer culture, and got involved with Kaprow's circle of collaborators and friends, who included Claes Oldenburg and Jim Dine.

In 1961 he painted his first Pop paintings. He took them to the Leo Castelli Gallery in New York that autumn and soon after saw his first Warhols there. His own 1962 show at Castelli's made his name, and he was included in the first museum exhibition to focus on *The New Paintings of Common Objects* at the Pasadena Art Museum the same year.

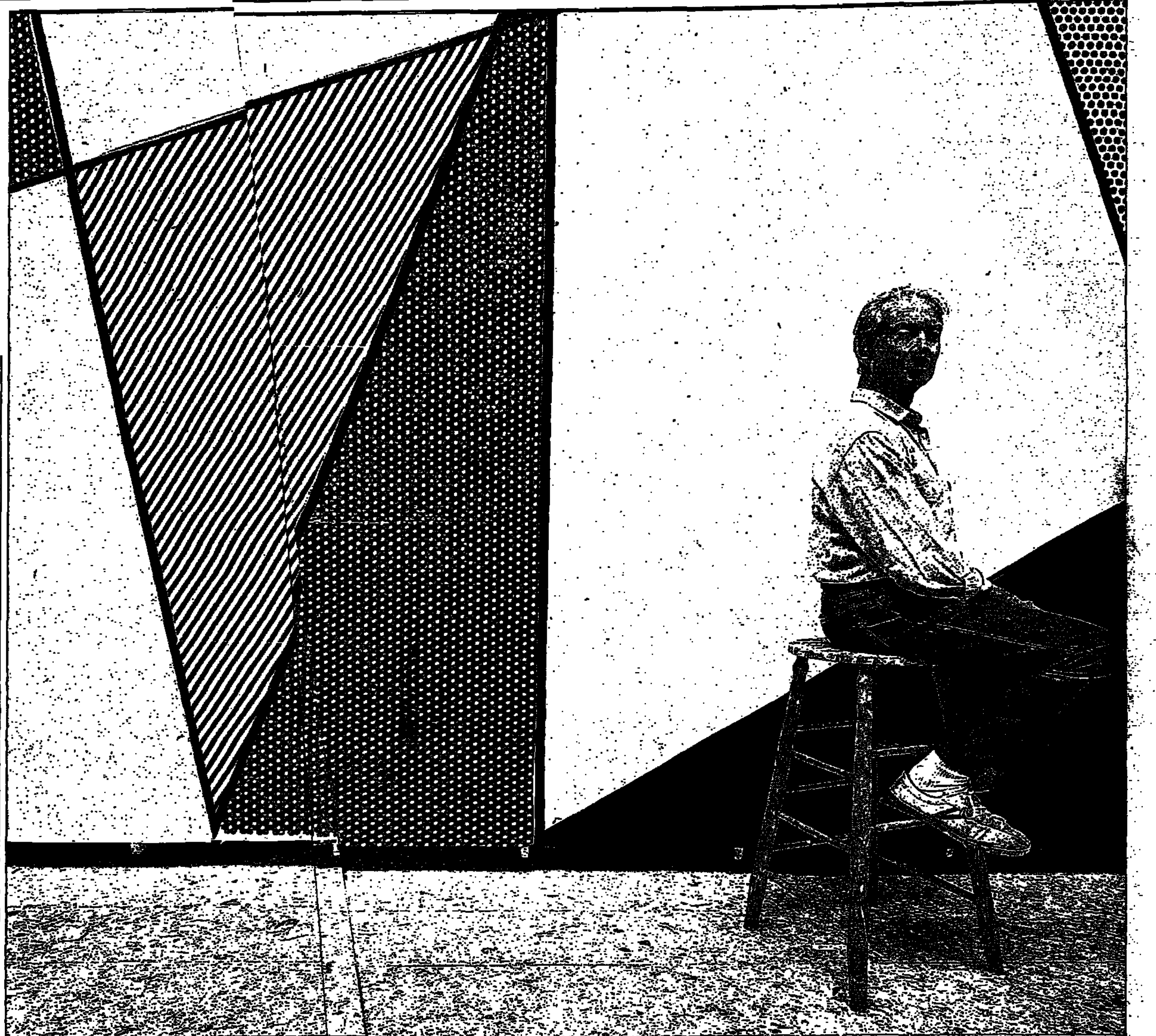
I met him shortly after the Venice Biennale of 1966 and recall vividly a man who struck me as surprisingly unvivid. He was shy, hesitantly friendly, thoughtful but not full of ready ideas and convictions. Other American artists I had met had been more upfront, physically sometimes, in their assertions. This experience was reinforced in 1968 when a comprehensive Lichtenstein exhibition was shown at the Tate Gallery as part of its European tour. I have rarely enjoyed and admired a one-man exhibition as much. It had all the intelligence and energy I had hoped to find in the man.

The comic-strip paintings stood out, and I still think of them as his most brilliant work. Seeing them in the flesh was, of course, the essential thing. Pictures that are themselves more or less reproductions do not reproduce well. Here were frames of cropped images from comic strips translated into paintings, coarse print of skilfully but quickly drawn and coloured narrative was subtly redesigned and drawn to become modern history paintings. War and peace, romantic bliss and romantic pain — scenes at once ordinary and irresistibly firm and clear, as though they were stills from a film directed by Hiroshige, the great Japanese printmaker. Lichtenstein's technique was perfect for his purposes. He had found a way of imitating the dots of newsprint by painting through perforated steel, but he knew also where to use unbroken areas of colour and what weight and scale to give to the thoughts and cries that rise as balloons from warriors and lovers. The Tate Gallery made a brilliant choice in acquiring his great diptych *WHAAM!*, a Pop echo in its juxtaposing of seeing with what is being seen of Gauguin's famous *Vision after the Sermon* in Edinburgh.

There was always something new from Lichtenstein to be seen and evaluated. But the excitement, the joy, dropped as he moved into his fifties and sixties, even though there was never any loss of skill and intellectual as well as visual brightness.

Norbert Lynton

Roy Lichtenstein, artist, born October 27, 1923; died September 29, 1997



Roy Lichtenstein . . . worked as an engineering draftsman and a graphic artist before making his name as a painter in 1962 PHOTOGRAPH: MARCO VALDIVIA

Death Notices

VORHAUS. Hetty Davies, died 27th September aged 87. Deeply loved wife and mother, greatly talented: child piano prodigy, film dialogue director, sculptress, campaigner for peace and social justice. Funeral 11am Saturday, October 4, Golders Green Crematorium. Memorial reception 12.30, 25 Elsworthy Road. Flowers family only. Contributions Hetty Vorhaus Memorial Fund, 25 Elsworthy Road NW3 3BT.

WARD. Margaret, on September 29th 1997 peacefully at Westhaven Nursing Home. Beloved wife of Thomas, much loved mother to David, Jonathan and Katie, grandmother to Benjamin, Louis, Raisselle, Heidi, Julius, Lauren, Patrick and Thomas. Funeral service at Landican Crematorium, Friday October 3rd at 3pm. Family flowers only, donations to NSPCC. All enquiries to Quinns Funeral Services, 26 Market Street, Hoylake, Wirral. Tel 0151 632 2205.
"The woods are lovely, dark and deep.
But I have promises to keep.
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep"

Memorial Services

PICARDIE, Ruth. There will be a celebration of the life and work of Ruth on Monday October 6 at 11am at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1. All friends, colleagues and readers welcome.

LUDLOW. Andy. A Memorial Service to celebrate the life and work of Andy Ludlow will be held at The Decorium, 22 Western Road, Wood Green, London N22 on 15th October 1997 at 3.00 pm. Enquiries to 0181-882-2927.

Births

GUARD. Kirsty White and Richard Guard are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Oliver Moses Northfield Guard, on Sept 8th.

HALSTEAD. James Teja, a son to Ric and Nim Halstead (née Beamiss), on 29/8/97. For information contact 3 Woodgrove Avenue, Cherry Brook, NSW 2126, Australia.

BOB AND ANNETTE HOLMAN ARE GRANDPARENTS! Lucas Mathew Farndale born 21st September 1997 to Ruth Holman and Bruce Farndale.

TAPLIN HARDING. On Monday 29 September at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, to Phoebe, a daughter, Mathilda Rose.

Engagements

Mr C.A.L HILL and Miss P.J WALKER. The engagement is announced between Christopher, elder son of Mr and Mrs James Hill of Hursley, Hampshire and Pippa, younger daughter of Mr Barry Walker of Montalcino, Italy and Mrs Hazel Walker of Cholesbury Common, Buckinghamshire.

■To place your announcement telephone 0171 713 4567 or fax 0171 713 4129 between 9am and 3pm Mon-Fri.

Birthdays

Julie Andrews, actress, 62; **Daniel Boorstin**, historian of America, 83; **Margaret Bramall**, former director, National Council for One-Parent Families, 81; **Moran Caplat**, former Glyndebourne administrator, 81; **Jimmy Carter**, former US president, 73; **Cardinal Cahal Daly**, former Primate of All Ireland, 80; **Shirley Dex**, economist, 47; **Sandy Gall**, broadcaster, 70; **John Gunnell**, Labour MP, 64; **Richard Hambro**, chairman, Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund, 51; **Prof Sir Stuart Hampshire**, philosopher, 83; **Richard Harris**, actor, 64; **Dave Holland**, jazz musician, 51; **Mary McFadden**, fashion designer, 59; **Thorold Masefield**, High Commissioner to Nigeria, 58; **Walter Matthau**, actor, 77; **Dame Kathleen Ollerenshaw**, educationist, 85; **Prof John Reid**, clinical pharmacologist, 54; **Prof Sir Roland Smith**, industrialist, 69; **Rt Rev David Stancliffe**, Bishop of Salisbury, 55; **Prof Sir Colin Stansfield Smith**, architect, 65; **Sir Robert Telford**, life president, Marconi, 82; **Prof Jean Thomas**, biochemist, 55; **Paul Walsh**, footballer, 35.

Sir Harry Boyne

A Highland gentleman in the lobby

SIR HARRY Boyne, the former political correspondent of the Daily Telegraph who has died aged 87, was a figure from Fleet Street's vanished past, in two quite separate ways. First, he was a gentleman lobby correspondent of the pre-red-top tabloid era. Second, he worked throughout his long career for newspaper proprietors who belonged to a near-feudal age.

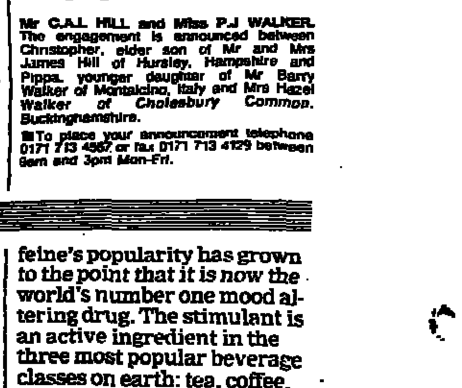
This last is a euphemism for the kind of proprietor who sacked people for belonging to a union and deprived them of their pension if they stepped out of line. Both these things happened to Harry Boyne, the first when he was working for D C Thomson's, the non-union newspaper and periodical publisher in Dundee, and the second when he worked for Lord Hartwell, the owner of the Telegraph newspapers before they were bought out by Conrad Black.

Much obloquy has been heaped on new style proprietors like Rupert Murdoch, most of it justified many times over. But it is wrong to translate this — as many writers now seek to do — into nostalgic admiration for employers like Thomson and Hartwell. What they did to Harry Boyne would have been harsh in a Victorian mill owner.

Boyne had started in journalism in his native city of Inverness, where he was educated, moving just before the war to D C Thomson's. He went off to the army soon after, rose to the rank of major in the Black Watch, and came back to Dundee with a permanent limp acquired on the battlefields of Normandy.

The fact that Boyne had been fighting against Hitler's tyranny cut no ice with Thomson's. Soon after starting work, it emerged that he held a National Union of Journalists' card. Thomson sent for him, asked if this was true, and sacked him when he owned up. Curiously, this experience did not radicalise Boyne in political terms, for he remained a Tory of the pre-Thatcherite variety for his entire life. But it confirmed his belief in the virtues of non-political trades unionism.

Already a family man, Boyne was out of work for six months after his sacking. He was eventually hauled on board by the Glasgow Herald, then ahead of Caledonian Daily Telegraph, and in 1950 it sent him south to Westminster. It seemed almost inevitable that he would move to the real Daily Telegraph, which he did in 1956. He remained its political correspondent until his retirement more than 20 years later.



Boyne . . . loyal to his union

But that earned retirement was marred by his treatment at the hands of Lord Hartwell. Once again it was Boyne's loyalty to his trade union which led to the trouble. Though a devotee of formal figure — he always wore a bowler hat, though his rolled umbrella was really a walking stick for his gammy leg — he felt it his duty to share union activities. So when the NUJ called a strike at the Telegraph, Boyne did his turn on the picket line, complete with brolly and bowler.

It was just Boyne's luck that he should be patrolling the pavement outside the old Telegraph building in Fleet Street when Hartwell's chauffeur-driven car drew up and unloaded the proprietor. Boyne stepped forward, raised his hat politely, and handed his noble employer a leaflet outlining the union's case.

Hartwell was so outraged by this example of militancy on the part of someone he had always regarded as a model employee that he downgraded Boyne's membership of the paper's "top hat" pension scheme. When he reached retirement age a few years later there were no formal farewells, and the Boyne family suddenly found itself hard up.

But he did not whinge. At first he took work as a court usher at the Old Bailey — probably the first knight bachelor ever to perform that role. Later he went to work in the press office of Conservative Central Office, where he eventually became director of communications — a post which would nowadays be described as "head spin doctor". In fact, his bowling was straightforward line and length, totally devoid of spin.

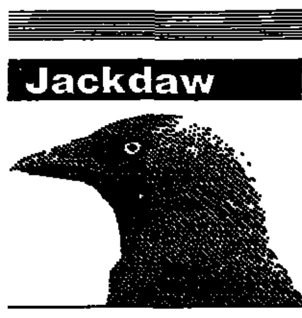
Some of his obituarists have made much of the fact that Boyne was an enthusiastic practitioner of the much-criticised "lobby system" — the Westminster arrangement by which ministers and MPs are able to brief lobby correspondents on the understanding that they will not be named in print. Younger men criticised him as a representative of the deferential school of political reportage, not least because he accepted his knighthood from Harold Wilson.

But this is unfair. Sir Harry was simply a creature of his time, no more and no less, and he operated the system as he found it. The fact that he did it with dignity, courtesy and unfailing good manners was in no way demeaning, either for him or for his trade. It simply reflected his true character, which was that of a Highland gentleman. He leaves his wife Margaret and one daughter.

Ian Aitken

Sir Henry (Harry) Brian Boyne, journalist, born July 29 1910; died September 18, 1997

Jackdaw



Sound track

A MOVIE. A child stands on a street corner. A milkman sorts through his bottles. Clouds streak across the sun. What music goes with these images? What sounds should accompany them? What secrets do they contain that need to be brought out? Every sprocketed strip of film music is beaded with the sweat of such ponderous deliberation. The composer muses over which music to fuse with which image, settling on cues which then attach themselves to the visuals like limpet mines. It's part illusion, part trickery, part chance, part chaos. Many film composers know this musical existentialism intimately — and it intimidates them. It is both the source of the frustration that hinders and constricts their art (the dictates of convention) and the impetus for the reactionary stance they have struck throughout film history (the spectre of invention).

Though some film composers figure there is meaning to be unravelled from image — their excuse for Mickey Mousing the onscreen action — others embrace the essentially detached nature of the film score, casting wild, sonic gestures while inventing a narrative logic to govern the audio-visual realm.

For such composers, any sound or musical atmosphere can be attached to any image. The question they ask is not "Why?" but "Why not?"
Lights, camera, music, The Wire.

Whisky chaser

THE term "bourbon" is customarily used to describe "straight" (unblended) whisky produced in Kentucky, although the legal definition is looser. Tennessee whiskies, such as Jack Daniel's, don't claim to be bourbons, yet the practical differences between the two varieties are few. Chiefly, they amount to the fact that Tennessee whiskies are lengthily filtered through maple charcoal before being aged in barrels for at least four years (this process is known as "mellowing" in American PR-speak), while for bourbon, the key part of the production process is the barrel-ageing itself. This takes place in brand new, heavily charred, American white oak barrels, and can last anything up to a dozen years.

The principal grain used in the production of both bourbon and whisky is corn. Smaller, variable quantities of wheat, rye and malted barley are added to produce different flavours. Both spirits are distilled in a continuous still, cheaper and more efficient than the more traditional pot still (in which batches are distilled one at a time). Operational variants produce spirits of different strengths. Jack Daniel's, Jim Beam and Maker's Mark are also described as "sour mash" which refers to the use — in the grain cooking and fermentation processes — of yeast residues from previous distillations. In fact all American straight whiskies are sour mash to some extent.
BBC Good Food sorts out the wheat from the chaff.

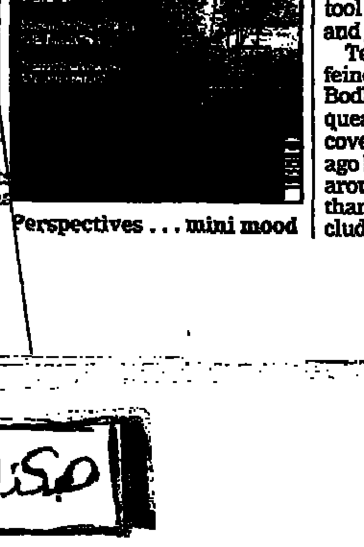
Is less more?

DURING the past two years, hardly any broadsheet in Britain has missed an opportunity to make Minimalism the subject of its weekend style feature. The actual number of examples of the style is probably very small, consisting either of apartment conversions or occasionally shops and restaurants, but the idea behind them evidently feeds some communal fantasy about a better life in pure white spaces with no objects, which the journalist must subtly subvert by suggesting that these style leaders actually enjoy the same illicit pleasures of clutter and kitsch as the rest of us. Minimalism appears in the face of practicality.

Why, then, do architects strive, against economics, tional reason and ... to remove practical fixtures from their interiors? This is surely one of the great incomprehension between the unprejudiced, but practically minded, non-architect and the mind of the specially apparently trained in this irrational practice.

Whatever the answer, it should reveal something that architects know and care about, of which others are only dimly aware. In getting rid of all fixtures, Minimalist architects are seeking to create a purity of space — discipline, they may argue, which they have studied deeply. During the development of Modern architecture such pure aesthetic considerations tended to be masked by more mundane arguments about the practicality and economic effectiveness of discarding traditional styles. Few people are still convinced by these arguments, but their disappearance has enabled Modernism to emerge more truly as a means of architectural expression.

Modernism has often been condemned as universalised, temporary and unspiritual. However, the contrary qualities of place, permanence and contemplation are not the exclusive property of anti-Modernists. The leading edge of theory and teaching is much concerned with them, resulting in a diversity of formal approaches. Among these, many designs are identifiable by their extreme avoidance of figural emphasis or rhetorical gesture, negative attributes which have defined Minimalism.
The bare minimum, in Perspectives on Architecture.



Perspectives . . . mini mood

Coffee break

BODHIDHARMA, a Zen priest living in China around 500 AD, was in the middle of one of his famously long meditations when he uncharacteristically fell asleep. Upon wakening, he was so disgusted with himself that he ripped off his eyelids and flung them to the ground. Legend has it that tea plants sprang up where the eyelids fell, thus providing other Buddhist meditators with a tool for extending the reach and power of their sittings.

Tea, of course, contains caffeine, which is the real tool Bodhidharma allegedly bequeathed. Having been discovered thousands of years ago by indigenous peoples around the world in more than 100 species of plants (including some cacti), caffeine's popularity has grown to the point that it is now the world's number one mood altering drug. The stimulant is an active ingredient in the three most popular beverage classes on earth: tea, coffee, and soft drinks . . . But caffeine in one of its most conventional forms has not always been so well regarded. When coffee was introduced to Europe in the middle of the 17th century from what was then Arabia, it was regarded as an exotic curiosity at best and a repulsive excuse for a beverage at worst. In the 1600s many people couldn't imagine consuming a hot, bitter black drink. It reminded them of hot pitch, which was used as a medieval weapon and instrument of torture.
Icon wakes up and smells the coffee.

Jackdaw wants jewels. E-mail jackdaw@guardian.co.uk.; fax 0171-713 4366; write Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER.

Hannah Pool

هكذا من الاصل

Analysis

The jobs crisis

Livingstone: How I beat Mandelson 9

PHOTOGRAPH: DENIS THORPE

Europe isn't working

But the commission thinks it has the answer. Can its bold new strategy create jobs? Not by itself, say **Martin Walker** and **Larry Elliott**

AT 3pm today, the European Commission chairman Jacques Santer and Padraig Flynn, Commissioner for Employment and Social Affairs, will formally unveil before the European Parliament their new strategy to get Europe back to work. We will be hearing a lot more about An Employment Agenda for the Year 2000 in the lead-up to the special EU jobs summit in November, for which the strategy has been prepared.

The drafts of the commissioners' speeches read like golden oldies from Labour Party conferences past. There are ringing declarations of firm targets, to create 12 million jobs in five years for Europe's 18 million jobless, and to cut in half both long-term unemployment and youth unemployment.

There is the customary emphasis on re-skilling, with a new EU goal to have 25 per cent of the unemployed offered training, up from the bare 10 per cent who get it now. There is the traditional suggestion of public funds to work their alchemy to produce private jobs, in this case by means of the European Investment Bank subsidising small and medium-sized enterprises, and of Europe creating a new NASDAQ-style venture-capital market of its own.

And there is guff, orotund and sententious silliness, which last week had the aides of another Euro-commissioner reading the stuff aloud in mock-Irish accent to parody Padraig Flynn's sonorous style. The bit that provoked the most hilarity read like this: "An average of 30 per cent of the unemployed find work within a year. This proportion tends to rise slightly in periods of strong growth, which suggests that strong job creation affects people's chances of finding employment, and therefore of reducing unemployment."(1) But the brutal reality of Europe's faltering social model has made the jobs crisis no laughing matter.

CAN governments in fact create jobs? It is an idea that has been deeply unfashionable for the past 20 years. Jim Callaghan, lauded by Tony Blair in Brighton yesterday, used his leader's speech in Blackpool 21 years ago to bury the idea that a Labour government could spend its way out of recession. It would, he said, lead only to higher inflation and, ultimately, higher unemployment.

With that speech, the Keynesian era came to an end. A new era dawned in which control of the money supply, low taxation, curbs on public spending and a belief in market forces would unleash the forces of free enterprise and create "real jobs". Blair, even yesterday, placed the emphasis on flexibility in the workplace rather than any direct effort to create jobs. When Gordon Brown talked of full employment on Monday, he had in mind the creation of job opportunities for all in the next century, rather than a precise target.

But in truth, governments *can* create jobs: they do so all the time. In Britain, there are around five million jobs — 20 per cent of the total — in the public sector. These jobs — in hospitals, schools, town halls, the armed forces — are paid for by the taxpayer. If the Government cut off the supply of money, there would no longer be a police force or an Inland Revenue. If it spent more, health-authority trusts could afford to hire more nurses, local councils could hire more care assistants. The problem with tax and spend is not so much economic as political: someone has to pay.

However, there is one other way in which governments can create jobs — by running more expansionary economic policies. The halving of Britain's unemployment in the past five years is the result of economic policies that have been more conducive to growth. Unless Europe follows the same route, any job-creation programme dreamt up in Brussels will run into the sand.

Europe's desperately poor record on job creation over the past 15 years has been widely blamed on its over-rigid labour market and the high costs to employers of funding its generous welfare states. But Europe had exactly the same labour-market structure when it had fuller employment in the 1950s and 1960s. The big difference is that Europe's economy was growing strongly in the first two decades after the second world war, but has expanded at a snail's pace in the 1980s and 1990s as governments have focused on conquering inflation at all costs.

YET GROWTH is not the focus of the European commissioners' job-creation strategy as set out in An Employment Agenda for the Year 2000. Certainly they talk of growth, but the commission paper is shot through with what Blair and Brown would see as old Labour thinking, reeking of central planning and market regulation. The philosophical gap between Blair's Britain and the Europeans yawns almost as wide as the relative unemployment figures.

The host of the jobs summit, the prime minister of Luxembourg (and current European Council president), Jean-Claude Juncker, went to see the European Trade Union Confederation last month to tell them that he would not allow the employment summit to become a deregulation summit. Mr Juncker insisted: "Europe has not lost its ability to compete and the European social model, although in need of reform, is not under threat."(2) In true corporatist style, he suggested a new round of regular meetings between "the social partners" — the trade unions and the employers — and the troika, the past, present and current presidents of the European Council. The kind of topic they might discuss would be two recent developments in German industry which suggest that anyone who claims the European social model is not under threat is living on a different planet.

This week, the big German union, IG Metall, reached a regional agreement with the employers for workers over the age of 60 to work half-time for 82 per cent of basic pay, with workers over the age of 55 also being able to work half-time for a yet-to-be-negotiated fraction of pay. The goal was to free working places for the unemployed young. But this treats jobs as a limited and rationed social treasure to be shared out. And despite hopeful statistics about German growth resuming, the country's construction industry yesterday reported that orders were down 13 per cent on the year in what was East Germany and 6.6 per cent down in the West.

The European social model is in even more trouble in France, where the prime minister, Lionel Jospin, is backing away from his pledge to create more jobs by cutting the working week from 39 to 35 hours without loss of pay.

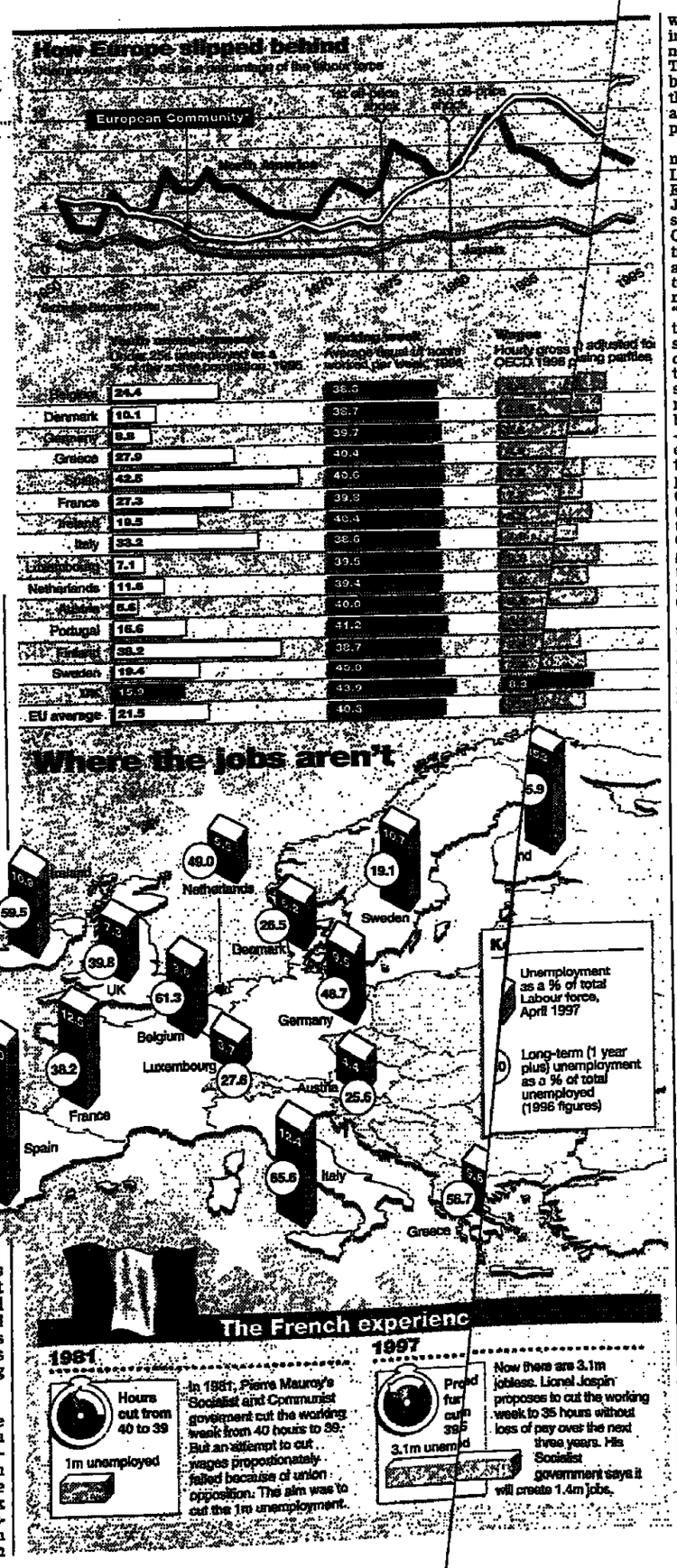
THERE is no gainsaying the contrast with the American boom which has inflation and unemployment both down below 5 per cent while growth hums along at more than 4 per cent. Britain is not quite in that league; nor are the other "Anglo-Saxons" of Canada, Australia and New Zealand.(3) But all of them have unemployment just above half the desperate level in France.

At one level this simply reflects the ways in which the Anglo-Saxons went through their great industrial perestroika five or 10 years before the continental Europeans, and now reap the rewards. By contrast, the Europeans are suffering self-inflicted Thatcherism because of the budget-slashing required to meet the Maastricht targets for monetary union. Yet on another level, there really are two different kinds of economic models at work — and the difference is job creation. The US has created over 11 million new jobs since Bill Clinton took office in 1993, more than the rest of the G7 countries combined (4). And in Britain, despite some Tory fiddling with the unemployment statistics, the last five years since we were pitched out of the European Monetary System have brought more than 1.7 million new jobs. This may not be up to the US standard, but it impresses the Europeans.

But many of these jobs are part-time (though a Eurostat report earlier this month found that most British part-timers like it that way(5)). And many more are low-wage entry jobs, with limited prospects. Yet in the numbers of new companies starting, and in last year's after-tax return on equity for British manufacturers at a solid 9.2 per cent (compared to 5.8 per cent in 1979), jobs are being created in Britain because the real economy is booming. Above all, British labour unit costs are one-third less than those in Germany, while labour productivity is only 10 per cent behind and catching up.

The non-wage labour costs *are* the European social model — the various national-insurance and welfare payments that make it so forbidding for French and German employers to hire new staff. But those are the very provisions that are *not* being addressed by the German "social partners", just as the Bundestag managed last week to sink Chancellor Helmut Kohl's hopes of tax cuts on the Reagan-Thatcher model.

The best that can be said for the EC's jobs strategy is that at least it starts the real debate about the future of Europe's social model. But for Europe's 18 million unemployed — one worker in eight — the Brussels measures could prove too little and too late, and too concerned to put the troublesomely prospering Anglo-Saxons in their place.



(1) Executive Summary, An Employment Agenda for the Year 2000 (European Commission, published today); (2) ETUC report 23/97; (3) IMF World Economic Outlook, Sept 1997; (4) US Bureau of Labor Statistics, 1997; (5) Eurostat release No 6597, 18/9/97.

Martin Walker is the Guardian's European editor, Larry Elliott the economics editor.

Research: Isobel Montgomery; Guardian R&I Unit

Graphics: Paddy Allen, Natalie Crocker

Graphics sources: Unemployment since 1950 — OECD Jobs Study, 1994 (1993-5 figures are projections): EU unemployment rates — OECD News Release (September 1997); hourly wages — Sedgwick Noble Lowndes, August 1997; long-term unemployed & working week — Eurostat Statistics In Focus 8/97; youth unemployment — Eurostat; French plan — Paul Webster in Paris

Tomorrow: Northern Rock floats **Plus: Does Lloyd's rate?**

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
Telephone: 0171-239-9610
Fax: 0171-833-4456

Finance **Guardian**

Loopholes in the banking system allowed a swindle that was 'simplicity itself'

At the end of the joint fraud investigation officers wait for transport after making an arrest in Tottenham, north London
PHOTOGRAPH: PAUL REED

£2m bouncing PEP fraud

Dan Atkinson

MAJOR financial institutions may have been swindled out of more than £2 million by a bouncing-cheque fraud described by police as "simplicity itself".

Some of the grandest names in assurance and fund-management allowed criminals to swap dud cheques for good ones, using loopholes in the banking system and consumer-protection regulations.

Seven people were arrested yesterday as officers from four police forces raided 13 addresses in greater London.

Detectives can prove that £250,000 has been taken from savings institutions but believe the fraud may have totalled 10 times that amount. Nearly every company offering Personal Equity Plans, the tax-free savings vehicles, has suffered the fraud to a greater or lesser extent.

Detective Inspector Bob Wishart said: "Hopefully, our actions today, together with follow-up measures, will stop this particular fraud being perpetrated again."

A City police spokeswoman said: "The potential was for far greater sums to be lost." Institutions have tightened up their procedures as the fraud has come to light.

Nevertheless, the swindle has raised questions about internal controls at assurers and fund managers. It seems the fraudsters spread their activities around the industry to avoid arousing suspicion, though ultimately the institutions flooded the police with complaints, triggering yesterday's raids.

The forces involved indicate the range of the fraud; along with City and Metropolitan police were officers from New York — home of the giant Merrill Lynch Union and of Virgin Direct — and the Lothian and Borders force, which takes in Edinburgh, Britain's second financial centre.

A close-knit group of about 30 people is thought to have been involved in what is a modern version of one of the world's oldest white-collar crimes: the exchange of worthless paper for a valuable security. The swindle took advantage of two loopholes in the system — first, the built-in delay in clearing a cheque and second, the efficiency with which institutions, clearly mindful of investor-protection rules, despatched repayment cheques to clients.

The fraudsters would fill in PEP applications in false names, enclosing "dud" cheques to open the account. Shortly afterwards, taking advantage of the 14-day cooling off period, they would cancel the PEP account and request immediate repayment.

A company cheque would be posted to them before the institution realised the original cheque would not clear.

Meanwhile, the fraudsters would have cashed the company cheque, at a discount, at a cheque encashment bureau. These have sprung up in recent years as inner-city bank branches have closed and poorer people have had difficulties cashing cheques because of the spread of "account payee only" cheques, which cannot be countersigned by the recipient.

The bureaux — which have their own association and are recognised as providing a valid service — are able to cash payee-only cheques because they will have signed indemnity agreements with their own bankers, under which the bureaux themselves will make good any losses suffered should the cheques turn out to have been fraudulently passed.

For this reason, most bureaux make identity checks on customers, although these were clearly evaded in this case. Some of the loss is likely to fall on the bureaux if banks decide to activate the indemnities.

Notebook

Swedes give the game away

Edited by Alex Brummer

AMID the twists and turns of the debate about Britain joining European Monetary Union at an early date, the most illuminating comment yesterday came not from Tony Blair in Brighton, but from the Nordic fringes of the European Union. Speaking in Stockholm the Swedish finance minister, Erik Asbrink, revealed that the UK and Sweden "are very close to each other" in the EMU debate and it was his belief that Gordon Brown would publicly show his hand in December or January.

Why one might ask should the Swedes hold any insights? It is often forgotten that it is not just the core EMU countries, Germany and France, which participate in discussions at all levels on EMU, but all EU members. Thus the views of the lesser members may receive less media or market attention but can be as well informed as anyone else. In the case of Sweden and Denmark, the positions are adjacent to those of the UK. All three countries are ardent free-traders, all have large minorities which are sceptical about the effects of EMU on their sovereignty and all three are intent on reserving their position as long as is practically possible.

But the clock is now running extraordinarily fast. The determination of which countries will go forward will be made by the end of this year and there is a growing consensus, supported by the IMF in its World Economic Outlook report, that as many as 11 nations will move forward and fix exchange rates in April/May of next year. The sheer weight of numbers in effect means that the euro will be dominant rather than a minority currency and as Helen Liddell, the Economic Secretary, pointed out in Brighton — the UK's financial community will need to be ready to meet the challenge.

If the Stockholm version of events turns out to be correct then the UK, followed by Sweden and Denmark, could form the second EMU wave joining in 2001 or thereabouts.

Football fever

THE disclosure of Manchester United's new TV channel is extremely worrying for the Premier League, whose potential break-up suddenly looks an increasing possibility.

Consider the evidence. United would dearly love to be able to negotiate its own TV contracts, but at present is tied to the Premier League's deal with BSkyB. At the same time, BSkyB and Granada admit they are talking to a number of Premier League clubs about launching similar channels in the digital age, opening the possibility of such clubs getting together to launch their own mini-league.

It is already acknowledged that the Premier League contains a "league within a league" of top clubs, many of them floated, which pull in the top crowds.

Consider too BSkyB's position, which has been undermined by recent analysis suggesting it owes much of its commercial success to its deal with the Premier League, rather than the other way round.

How tempting it must be, then, for the likes of United, Arsenal and Liverpool to strike a deal of their own with pay-TV specialists like BSkyB or Flextech, setting up a lucrative new super league, freezing out smaller clubs. Chelsea's Ken Bates is rather more sceptical about such a development, pointing out that you need two teams to play a match and suggesting that it would be hard to negotiate fees for away sides featured in TV broadcasts.

However, this problem could be overcome if the top clubs came to a compact where they all agreed to play each other in a breakaway league, but with TV deals negotiated independently so the home side keeps all TV revenue — just as home sides keep all their gate receipts at present.

Such a deal ought to be in keeping with the ethos of competition the OFT wants to engender.

Flying kites

SOME time after the first good cheque was written someone wrote the first "rubber kite". And shortly after that, a less than honest individual twigged that the easiest fraud in the world would be to persuade someone to exchange the former for the latter.

Four centuries or so down the road, nobody seems to have shared this information with the financial giants that manage the nation's savings. Yesterday it emerged they have lost what may total £2 million or more at the hands of swindlers. How was it done? The swindle was, said the City of London Police, "simplicity itself".

Yes, quite. The fraudsters wrote dud cheques to open personal equity plan accounts, waited a day or so, then exercised their right to cancel the plan. Back from the super-efficient assurers and savings companies came a crisp corporate cheque for the original amount, a cheque promptly exchanged for cash. Later, the hapless assurer would discover the "customer" cheque exhibited a peculiar rubbery quality.

To be fair, the fraudsters spread their "business" around to avoid detection. But our great financial institutions have collectively paid a lot of money for a refresher course in elementary banking. Lesson one? Cheques take three (that's *three*) days to clear.

Price war looms as Shell cuts 3,000 retail jobs

Roger Cowe

A NEW petrol price war was signalled by Shell yesterday as the oil group announced 3,000 managerial redundancies in its European retail operations.

The shake-up, which is aimed at ending losses in the group's "downstream" business, will see Shell buying other service station chains and swapping assets with rivals across Europe.

It could result in only two oil companies operating petrol stations in the UK by the end of the decade.

"We want to be number one or number two in every market where we compete, and number one in profitablity", said Phil Turberville, European director of Shell's Oil Products business.

The company currently has 15 per cent of the UK market. That proportion will grow to 17 per cent when the recently announced acquisition of Gulf stations is completed. But the target is 20 per cent and further increases in market share will come from other acquisitions, possibly involving swaps of assets elsewhere in Europe.

Discussions have been held with other oil majors for several months and a deal is likely to be struck before the end of the year.

Mr Turberville said the company would be more competitive on price than it has in the past, although stressing that it was also experimenting with non-price developments such as a return to serviced petrol pumps.

The new policy will prompt cuts by competitors as market leader Esso and the supermarkets respond to Shell's price moves.

Shell will have to slash costs in order to make profits at lower prices. It aims to be the lowest cost competitor, which means that unit costs of the UK retail operation will have to fall by nearly half

Some of that reduction will come from the management restructuring which will simplify the European organisation and has been estimated to save up to £200 million. Among the redundancies will be 28 general managers in the oil marketing and retail business, as up to 10 management layers are reduced to three.

"We are moving away from a bureaucratic and hierarchical organisation", Mr Turberville said.

He refused to say how many of the job cuts would be in the UK but it could be as much as one in five of the oil products division. UK costs are currently well above Shell's European average.

Unit costs will also be reduced by boosting the volume of sales at the company's service station network. As well as expanding from the existing 1,700 petrol stations, Shell will attempt to boost sales by pushing more products through its Select shops and converting less productive sites to alternative uses.

It may import the Escapade restaurant format that has proved successful in France, and is examining the possibility of adding services such as local delivery of groceries and other products.

'We want to be number one or number two in every market where we compete, and number one in profitablity'
Phil Turberville
Shell director

Spens 'dive-bombs' DTI for one-sided Guinness report

Dan Atkin

CONTROVERSY is mounting over the soon-to-be-published Guinness report, one of whose subjects — ex-merchant banker Lord Spens — is accusing the inspectors of being "one-sided".

The President of the Board of Trade, Margaret Beckett, said on Monday he had decided in principle to make public the results of the 11-year investigation. Her staff aim to publish by the end of November but she has to consider objections against publication from those named in the report.

Lord Spens, who was cleared of Guinness-related charges and is suing the Bank of England for losing him his job, has accused Department of Trade and Industry civil servants of a series of press leaks during the summer.

The once legendary City deal-maker, now an independent member of the House of Lords, was, with others involved in the affair, shown the inspectors' findings of fact in an interim report two years ago. He believes the inspectors have failed in their duty in four areas.

First, he alleges they did not examine possible "dive-bombing" of Guinness shares in 1986 by its rival, Argyll, in the bitter £2.6 billion bid battle for the Distillers drinks company. He claims Argyll indemnified sellers of Guinness shares against loss, just as Guinness was said to have indemnified buyers.

Second, Lord Spens says one particularly blatant case of such indemnities was not investigated. Third, he says investigators failed to find out the definition of a "false market" in shares from the Takeover Panel, the City's referee.

Fourth, he identifies the "failure to interview any market maker to establish whether the 'market' felt misled or false" during the bid.

Lord Spens concludes in his letter to Mrs Beckett: "In my opinion and in the opinion of many others the one-sided nature of the inspectors' investigation totally discredited the interim report.

"I would hope that, in the interests of justice, the final report covers all these areas and more. Please will you ensure that publication is accelerated so that we can all examine its quality."

The use made of testimony extracted by the inspectors under compulsion from the former chairman of Guinness, Ernest Saunders, and others, was condemned last year by the European Court of Human Rights. Mr Saunders's co-defendants, tycoon Gerald Ronson, stockbroker Anthony Parnes and financier Jack Lyons, have similar cases pending.

Fine or Friends is PIA's biggest

Sarah Ryle

THE Personal Investment Authority yesterday imposed its biggest fine to date over pensions mis-selling by demanding that Friends Provident pay £450,000 for making "slow progress" in its review.

But the company hoped that it would meet the regulator's targets and said policyholders would not suffer as a result of the fine because funds under management were so large at £20 billion.

Amid indications that the insurance industry is becoming more defiant about regulatory penalties, Friends Provident director and company secretary Brian Swinland said progress was being slowed by customers' failure to return forms giving details which were essential to the review.

The PIA will merge with other regulators to form NewRo before the end of the year. Senior executives in the industry believe that the organisation is keen to show it has teeth.

One, who would not be named, said yesterday: "There is a belief that we have a number of regulators fighting for a place in heaven under NewRo and all have their objectives."

Describing the fine as "disappointing", Friends Provident said it should be judged on the final outcome of its pensions review, involving 6,428 cases, rather than progress at an interim date that it did not know about.

"Friends Provident is well aware of the pressure under which the PIA is conducting the pensions review and the importance of restoring consumer confidence to the industry as a whole," the statement said.

Treasury minister Helen Liddell has stepped up the pressure with her policy of "naming and shaming" the worst offenders, listing 41 companies.

The latest fine is the 43rd imposed by the PIA and brings the total levied to £1.15 billion.

Out with 'old', in with euphemistic

David Brindle on a cultural shift which rewrites employers' bias

THE good news for the more mature jobseeker is that blatant age discrimination is on the way out. The bad news? Euphemistic discrimination is on the way in.

A survey today of more than 8,000 job advertisements in newspapers shows that only 6 per cent stipulated an age limit.

Two years ago, a similar survey found that twice as many employers were telling older would-be applicants not to bother. In the 1980s, as many as 30 to 40 per cent of adverts carried age exclusions.

The positive trend is tempered however, by the finding that advertisers are using coded language to deter the middle-aged.

Giveaway phrases include: "Don't read this unless you want to join a young team"; "A young, motivated culture with an enviable can-do spirit"; and "This is probably your second job."

The survey was carried out by advertising agency Barkers Human Resources for the Carnegie Third Age Programme, which campaigns for job opportunities for older people. Forty per cent of Britain's workforce will be over 45 by the end of the decade.

Nick Holker, Barkers' research and planning director, said the phrases creeping into use sent out "a fairly clear message", which was discriminatory and short-sighted.

Richard Worsley, director of the Carnegie programme, said any plans for legislation on age discrimination would have to consider not only blatantly ageist advertising, but also the "more subtle" techniques now used.

Pearson set to buy US TV firm

Roger Cowe

MEDIA group Pearson is expected to buy the US television production company that makes Baywatch and The Price is Right today for $400 million (£250 million).

The company, All American Communications, is controlled by chairman Anthony Scotti, who is expected to agree to Pearson's offer at a board meeting this afternoon.

A TV industry source said yesterday: "An announcement will be made tomorrow that Pearson has purchased All American lock, stock and barrel."

Neither All American nor Pearson was available for comment last night.

The US company is based in California and produces or distributes about 100 programmes, specialising in game shows and soap operas such as Baywatch.

Although Pearson dismissed rumours a few weeks ago that it was in talks with All American, the group has made it clear that it wants to expand its TV interests, which are currently led by LWT's former boss, Greg Dyke.

It already owns the former Thames TV library and production companies such as Grundy, the Australian firm that makes Neighbours. The group's new chief executive, Marjorie Scardino, said last month that she wanted to capitalise on the growing market for TV content.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 2.178	France 9.285	Italy 2,735	Singapore 2.42
Austria 19.50	Germany 2.77	Malta 0.614	South Africa 7.31
Belgium 57.17	Greece 440.00	Netherlands 3.11	Spain 232.40
Canada 2.173	Hong Kong 12.12	New Zealand 2.453	Sweden 11.977
Cyprus 0.819	India 58.49	Norway 11.145	Switzerland 2.28
Denmark 10.618	Ireland 1.072	Portugal 282.00	Turkey 269,040
Finland 8.372	Israel 5.66	Saudi Arabia 5.945	USA 1.576

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli shekel).

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Racing

Embassy all the rage for Guineas

Chris Hawkins

ACCELERATION is the mark of merit in the thoroughbred, and Embassy went to the top of the class after a blistering burst to win yesterday's Shadwell Stud Cheveley Park Stakes at Newmarket: not only top of the class, but head of the ante-post market for next year's 1,000 Guineas.

The Tote go as short as 3-1 favourite for the first fillies' Classic, but Coral's offer the best value at 6-1 from 16s.

Kieren Fallon was in no hurry on Embassy as Shmoose made the running, and was content to sit behind until the two furlong pole. But when he asked the question the response was typical of a precocious pupil, and the filly could not wait to show off, racing clear in a matter of strides.

The new sectional timing on the Rowley Mile revealed that Embassy covered the final quarter mile in 24.03 seconds compared to the 24.28 seconds of the runner-up, Crazee Mental, and 26.14 of Shmoose who back-pedalled to finish last. Newmarket's innovative system has been installed at a cost of £200,000, and every horse is timed by way of a transponder which is attached to the saddle cloth.

Perhaps it was the pulse which sparked Embassy's burst, but whatever it was the result was spectacular, and she stormed home two-and-a-half lengths clear.

"I had doubts before the race whether she would stay a mile, but Kieren said she races so relaxed that she will have every chance of getting the trip next year," said David Loder, the trainer. "You saw it — it's her acceleration which kills off the opposition."

This is the second Cheveley Park winner Loder has trained for Sheikh Mohammed in three seasons. Blue Duster won it in 1995, but due to a muscle problem did not train on.

Comparing the two, Loder said: "Embassy is smaller than Blue Duster, but is more compact and stronger. You can't say whether she'll make a three-year-old, but obviously I'm hopeful."

Only 24 hours earlier the Sheikh had bought Cape Verdi for his Godolphin operation in a job lot including the colt City Honours from Robert Sangster, but he must have been wondering why he bothered after the filly finished a well-beaten fourth, utterly failing to reproduce her York form with the winner.

There was abundant confidence in Cape Verdi who started the 11-8 favourite, but after having every chance she was badly outpaced in the final furlong, and clearly needs farther. Big bucks do not necessarily buy talent, and Crazee Mental cost owner Hugh O'Donnell only 8,500 guineas. Derek Haydn Jones, her trainer, was full of admiration for the filly, but regretting the fact that an injury to her shoulder had left her a gallop short.

Flying filly . . . Embassy streaks clear of her Cheveley Park rivals at Newmarket yesterday PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK BARON

Roger Charlton scooped more than £201,000 for his owners in prize money and breeders' bonuses after saddling the first and second in the Tattersalls Houghton Stakes.

Tamarisk, the 5-4 favourite, made all, and quickened clear to beat Sapphire Ring by three and a half lengths. It was a very impressive performance and Tamarisk, who won his previous race by six lengths, is now unbeaten in three attempts.

There is no telling just how good this Green Desert colt is and Chalrton intends to find out by supplementing him for the Dewhurst Stakes in two weeks time.

Tim Sprake, the jockey, rates Tamarisk the best horse he has ridden on the racecourse: "Quite often I've been on good horses at home or first time out, and then someone else has got on them — Silver Patriarch was a case in point. Tamarisk travels and quickens, and has never had a smack."

This was Sprake's 63rd winner on turf this season which equals his best total.

Arc news concerns My Emma who has been confirmed a definite runner by Rae Guest after falling and injuring her quarters two weeks ago. Hill's quote her at 10-1 behind co-favourites Helissio, Pilsudski and Peintre Celebre at 7-2. Borgia, the top German mare, has been supplemented and put in the betting by Hill's at 16-1.

Cambridgeshire favourite Labeq is doubtful for Saturday's race after pulling up stiff yesterday morning.

Sport in brief

Silk Cut slips back as Kvaerner races clear

LAWRIE SMITH's Silk Cut has slipped to fifth in the Whitbread Round the World Race, *writes Bob Fisher*. The British boat has been overtaken by Mark Fischer's Chessie Racing and is now 66 miles astern of Knut Frostad's Innovation Kvaerner.

Fluctuating weather which was responsible for the change also affected Grant Dalton, whose Merit Cup is holding on to second place. "We were feeling pretty good about life, with Kvaerner so close," said Dalton. "Then a big black cloud planted itself overhead and Kvaerner put 16 miles on us in six hours." That is the 15 miles by which Dalton now trails the leaders. Paul Cayard's EF Language is 10 miles behind Merit Cup, with Chessie Racing another 25 miles back; 16 miles further back is Silk Cut.

Four in a row for 49ers

THE San Francisco 49ers claimed their fourth straight victory and their first win at the Ericsson Stadium in Charlotte when they beat their NFC West Division rivals the Carolina Panthers 34–21. Carolina, who beat the 49ers twice last season and won all their games in Charlotte, suffered their third consecutive home defeat.

Prost hires Renault expert

ALAIN PROST has hired Bernard Dudot, his colleague at Renault in the early Eighties, to develop his Formula One cars next year. Dudot is currently working with Williams and Benetton but Renault are withdrawing from Formula One this year and he will join Prost as technical director. Prost, currently using Mugen Hondas, will obtain his engines from Peugeot.

American sunk by blunder

GARRY KASPAROV's hypnotic reputation claimed another victim at Tilburg yesterday when Tal Shaked, the United States' 19-year-old junior world champion, blundered his queen into the Russian's one-move trap, *writes Leonard Barden*. Kasparov, who has won all his three games, leads Vladimir Kramnik by half a point with Britain's Michael Adams tied for third.

McManus marches on

ALAN McMANUS took the deciding frame with a 68 break to beat the world No. 4 Mark Williams 5–4 to reach the quarter-finals of the Regal Scottish Masters at Motherwell Civic Centre, *writes Clive Everton*. His quarter-final opponent tomorrow will be Peter Ebdon, to whom he lost in last year's final.

Former goalkeeper dies

PETER SPRINGETT, the former Sheffield Wednesday goalkeeper and brother of the England international Ron, has died aged 51 after a four-year illness which confined him to a wheelchair at his home in Dronfield.

Brighton programme

	CHRIS HAWKINS	TOP FORM
2.20	Private Seal	Private Seal
2.50	Beware	Beware
3.25	Forum	Forum (nap)
3.55	Be True	Areish
4.25	Roman Reel	Mac Oates
4.55	Ortelius	Maloaka
5.25	Easy Song (nb)	Easy Song

U-shaped left-handed course of 1¼m with 3½f run-in. Sharp and undulating.
Going: Firm. ★ Denotes blinkers.
Draw: Low numbers slightly favoured in sprints.
Long distance travellers: Es Go (3.55), R Bastiman, W Yorks, 262 miles.
Seven day winners: 4.25 Mac Oates & Harlequin Walk.
Blinkered first time: 2.20 Oriel Girl. Visored: 3.55 Alagna; 5.25 Easy Song.
Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. J.Jumps.

2.20 SEAGULL SELLING STAKES 2YO 5½f £1,985 (7 declared)

1 (2) 040640 Glass River (47) P Evans 8-11 ... J F Egan
2 (6) 55506 High Money (46) G Lewis 8-11 ... R Ffrench (3)
3 (3) 524120 Oriel Girl (15) (B) B Meehan 8-11 ... Candy Morris ★
4 (4) 36205 Private Seal (47) G L Moore 8-11 ... A Clark
5 (1) 320056 Sun In The Morning (16) (B) B Meehan 8-11 ... M Tebbutt
6 (7) 00 Lionels Lucky Lady (78) J S Moore 8-6 ... P Cleary (7)
7 (5) 0200 Verdant Express (29) W G M Turner 8-6 ... D Sweeney (3)
Betting: 6-5 Private Seal, 5-2 Oriel Girl, 9-2 High Money, 7-1 Glass River, 8-1 Sun In The Morning, 20-1 Verdant Express, 25-1 Lionels Lucky Lady.

2.50 NEWHAVEN NURSERY HANDICAP 2YO 6f £2,810 (5 declared)

1 (1) 63642 Beware (11) R Armstrong 9-7 ... S Sanders
2 (3) 00400 Facile Tigre (11) S Dow 8-8 ... P Doe (7)
3 (5) 010040 Truth Teller (23) (CD) R Hannon 8-4 ... R Ffrench (3)
4 (4) 050 Counsel (16) C Brittain 8-1 ... M Roberts
5 (2) 320260 Universal Lady (12) C James 7-13 ... Martin Dwyer
Betting: 2-1 Universal Lady, 11-4 Beware, 3-1 Facile Tigre, 6-1 Truth Teller, 7-1 Counsel.

3.25 E.B.F. SOMPTING MAIDEN STAKES 2YO 7f £3,381 (8 declared)

1 (2) 2 Freedom Quest (7) (BF) Sir M Prescott 9-0 ... S Sanders
2 (1) 43 Palmetto Bay (39) M Stoute 9-0 ... W Ryan
3 (7) 00 Priors Moor (18) R Armstrong 9-0 ... A Clark
4 (8) 00 Rubamma (37) P Walwyn 9-0 ... R French (3)
5 (4) 00 Flash (22) J Hills 8-9 ... M Hills
6 (3) 2634 Forum (48) (BF) C Brittain 8-9 ... M Roberts
7 (6) 3 Pride of Place (22) D Loder 8-9 ... R Cochrane
8 (5) 0 Total Tropix (6) W Haggas 8-9 ... A McGlone
Betting: 9-4 Forum, 5-2 Pride Of Place, 9-2 Freedom Quest, 5-1 Palmetto Bay, 10-1 Priors Moor, 12-1 Flash, 20-1 Rubamma, 33-1 Total Tropix.

3.55 LEVY BOARD MAIDEN HANDICAP 1m 4f £3,044 (11 declared)

1 (6) 031240 File Major (15) B Hills 3-9-10 ... M Hills
2 (10) 00-500 Drift (11) Sir M Prescott 3-9-7 ... S Sanders
3 (4) 04540 Action Stations (7) C Dyer 3-9-7 ... M Roberts
4 (2) 04-005 Elway Lady (22) I Balding 3-9-4 ... Martin Dwyer
5 (11) 006 Es Go (81) R Bastiman 4-9-2 ... R Bastiman (5)
6 (5) 500230 Bellagrane (36) M Fetherston-Godley 3-8-7 ... R Ffrench (3)
7 (7) 220564 Alagna (8) S C Williams 3-8-7 ... J F Egan ★
8 (1) -50600 Mary Coll (15) H Candy 3-8-5 ... A McGlone
9 (8) 550-06 Areish (36) J Fitch-Heyes 4-7-13 ... G Bardwell
10 (3) 000426 Maydown (37) M R Bosley 5-7-13 ... Kelli Phillips (7)
11 (9) 660503 Be True (29) G L Moore 3-7-11 ... P Doe (7)
Betting: 9-2 Elway Lady, Bellagrane, 6-1 File Major, Alagna, 8-1 Areish, Drift, Mary Coll, Be True.

4.25 STEYNING HANDICAP STAKES 1m 2f £2,277 (17 declared)

1 (1) 600000 Dark Age (15) (B) R Akehurst 4-9-11 ... D Denby (7)
2 (15) 100560 Here's To Howie (16) (CD) R Hannon 3-9-8 ... W J O'Connor
3 (14) 025236 Cheek To Cheek (8) C Cyzer 3-8-8 ... A Clark
4 (11) 046034 Tabasco Jazz (13) B Meehan 3-9-7 ... M Tebbutt
5 (10) 051000 Harvey White (15) (B) J Pearce 5-9-7 ... M Wigham
6 (5) 100514 Roman Reel (3) (CD) G L Moore 6-9-6 ... Candy Morris
7 (7) 015060 Double Gold (15) (B) M Bell 3-9-3 ... M Roberts
8 (6) 260-01 Mac Oates (7) (6lb ex) P Hedger 4-9-3 ... A McGlone
9 (3) 250262 Law Dancer (15) T Mills 4-9-2 ... Lisa Hackett (7)
10 (16) 353163 Colour Counsellor (28) (CD) R Flower 4-8-11 ... Martin Dwyer ★
11 (4) 502331 Moara Bay (36) (C) G Lewis 3-8-11 ... R Ffrench (3)
12 (8) 042665 Without Friends (7) J Fitch-Heyes 3-8-9 ... R Cochrane
13 (12) 542211 Harlequin Walk (7) (6lb ex) (B) R O'Sullivan 6-8-7 ... S Sanders
14 (13) -00000 Bolt Of Slam (56) E Wheeler 4-8-1 ... S Carson (7) ★
15 (2) 00-000 Comic Hill (44) (B) J Pearce 6-8-0 ... G Bardwell
16 (17) 040024 Rocky Waters (25) M Usher 8-8-0 ... D R McCabe ★
17 (9) 0-0000 Forward Miss (6) (B) C Benstead 3-7-10 ... P Doe (7)
Betting: 9-2 Moara Bay, 13-2 Roman Reel, 7-1 Tabasco Jazz, Mac Oates, Law Dancer, Harlequin Walk, 8-1 Colour Counsellor.

4.55 EASTBOURNE LIMITED STAKES 3YO 1m £2,277 (7 declared)

1 (5) 000364 Heart Full Of Soul (8) (B) P Cole 9-0 ... R Cochrane ★
2 (1) -04300 Kalif (33) G L Moore 9-0 ... A Clark
3 (6) 000300 Ortelius (15) R Hannon 9-0 ... W J O'Connor
4 (2) 33446- Surprise Event (J16) W G M Turner 9-0 ... D Sweeney (3)
5 (4) 0-4000 Daylight Dreams (16) C Cyzer 8-11 ... M Roberts
6 (3) 404230 Love Venture (26) S Woods 8-11 ... R Ffrench (3)
7 (7) 024526 Maloaka (8) (BF) V Soane 8-11 ... C Rutter
Betting: 7-4 Maloaka, 5-2 Love Venture, 4-1 Ortelius, 7-1 Daylight Dreams, 14-1 Heart Full Of Soul, Kalif, 20-1 Surprise Event.

5.25 HANNINGTONS OF BRIGHTON MAIDEN STAKES 1m 2f £3,423 (5 declared)

1 (5) 0 Croft Sands (22) R Akehurst 4-9-3 ... A McGlone
2 (1) 0-00 Bedouin Honda (193) C Brittain 3-8-12 ... M Roberts
3 (3) 02423 Easy Song (14) (BF) R Charlton 3-8-12 ... S Sanders ★
4 (4) 205-22 Tough Act (6) Mrs A Perrett 3-8-12 ... A Clark
5 (2) 6 Silver Marble (35) R Hannon 3-8-7 ... W J O'Connor
Betting: 6-5 Easy Song, 5-4 Tough Act, 9-2 Bedouin Honda, 16-1 Croft Sands, 25-1 Silver Marble.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

Jockeys	1st	Runs	%	Level St	Trainers	1st	Runs	%	Level St
T Quinn	53	220	24.1	+20.30	R Hannon	35	212	16.5	-42.02
M Roberts	24	88	27	+19.90	G L Moore	23	185	12.4	-48.42
Dane O'Neill	22	122	18	-0.59	R Akehurst	22	97	22.7	+27.70
Pat Eddery	20	69	29	-8.17	S Dow	21	152	13.8	+6.55
G Duffield	18	107	16.8	+15.26	B Meehan	18	117	15.4	-18.41
J Reid	18	136	13.2	-56.66	M Prescott	16	50	32.7	+31.01
S Sanders	17	119	14.3	-7.65	P Cole	13	107	12.1	-50.02

Trainer watch

Horses having their first run for a new trainer today — Newcastle: 4.45 Insider Trader, Mrs J Ramsden to B Rothwell.
Salisbury: 2.30 Tissue of Lies, M Johnston to R Akehurst; 3.35 Corporal Nym, P Cole to M Bosley.

Newcastle Jackpot meeting with form guide and ratings

	CHRIS HAWKINS	TOP FORM
2.10	Kahtan	Kahtan
2.40	Corpus Christi	Heathyards Sheik
3.15	Announcing	Classical Dance
3.45	Thatched	Needle Match
4.15	Rock Falcon (nap)	Arruhan
4.45	Squire Corrie	Lady Sheriff
5.15	Elhabub	Elhabub
5.45	Megred	Ladyofdistinction

Left-handed course of 1m6f with 4f run-in. Straight mile which rises throughout providing stiff test.
Going: Good to Firm. ★ Denotes blinkers.
Draw: High numbers best up to 1m.
Long distance travellers: Tommy Tortoise (3.15), Miss Gay Kelleway, Dorset, 353 miles.
Seven day winners: 4.45 Johayro & Mon Bruce.
Blinkered first time: None. Visored: 3.15 Arisaig, 4.45 Bollin Harry.
Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. J.Jumps.

2.10 E.B.F. HEBBURN MAIDEN STAKES 2YO 1m £3,453 (8 declared)

101 (1) 0 Asset Manager (6) M Johnston 9-0 ... D Holland 82
102 (5) 0 Bombastic (15) B Hills 9-0 ... K Darley 82
103 (8) 00 Common View (8) N Tinkler 9-0 ... L Charnock —
104 (2) 4 Kahtan (19) J Dunlop 9-0 ... R Hills ●90
105 (4) 66 Royal Shock (11) D Loder 9-0 ... K Fallon 83
106 (7) 0 Stedmore (6) N Tinkler 9-0 ... Kim Tinkler —
107 (6) 3 Lady Rachel (11) J Eyre 8-9 ... M Gallagher 88
108 (3) 0 Stone Beck (14) J Jefferson 8-9 ... J Carroll —
Betting: 11-10 Kahtan, 7-2 Bombastic, 9-2 Asset Manager, 10-1 Royal Shock, Lady Rachel, 14-1 Stone Beck.

FORM GUIDE - Asset Manager: Outpaced and pushed along halfway, headway over 2f out, ran green, kept on, 8th of 13, 6l behind Close Up at Pontefract 1m 2y mdn, Gd-Fm. Bombastic: 14-1 Started slowly, ridden 3f out, headway and not clear run over 1f out, never nearer, 7th of 13, 12l behind Abreeze at Sandown 7f 2y mdn, Gd. Kahtan: Slowly into stride, headway over 2f out, weakened final furlong, 4th of 8, 4¾l behind City Honours at Doncaster 1m 2y mdn, Gd-Fm. Royal Shock: Soon pushed along, ran wide after 1f, headway over 3f out, weakened 2f out, 6th of 8, 7l behind Pedro at W'hampton (aw) 1m 2y mdn.

2.40 PRICE WATERHOUSE MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES (DIV 1) 2YO 7f £2,950 (12 declared)

201 (6) Corpus Christi M Johnston 8-9 ... Dean McKeown —
202 (1) 060 One To Go (14) J Berry 8-9 ... K Darley 89
203 (3) 00 Premium Quest (14) R Fahey 8-9 ... —
204 (9) 00060 Wee Christy (47) W McKeown 8-9 ... J Lowe —
205 (8) 005550 Heathyards Sheik (6) R Hollinshead 8-6 ... F Lynch ●90
206 (4) 40555 Shemwari Song (11) J Glover 8-6 ... J Carroll 83
207 (5) Flaxen Pride Mrs M Reveley 8-4 ... A Culhane —
208 (12) 30000 Starliner (16) M Brittain 8-4 ... D Mernagh (7) —
209 (2) 04000 Towndale Cha Cha (16) J Wainwright 8-1 ... J Bramhill —
210 (7) 40 Another Wyn-Bank (16) J FitzGerald 7-12 ... P Fessey (3) 79
211 (10) 00 Missed Demise (14) Mrs A Swinbank 7-12 ... E Johnson —
212 (11) 00 Pitchmark (11) E Weymes 7-12 ... J Quinn —
Betting: 7-2 Corpus Christi, 9-2 One To Go, Another Wyn-Bank, 8-1 Heathyards Sheik, Shemwari Song, 8-1 Premium Quest, 12-1 Flaxen Pride, Starliner

FORM GUIDE - Corpus Christi: Royal Academy gelding, half-brother to winning stayer Art Form. One To Go: Led until headed 1 1/2f out, soon beaten, 9th of 16, 11l behind Central Committee at Beverley 7f 2y mdn auct, Gd-Fm. Heathyards Sheik: Speed over 3f, soon weakened, 8th of 11, 11l behind Khoyrah at Haydock 6f hcap, Gd. Another Wyn-Bank: Chased leaders until ridden and beaten approaching final furlong, 7th of 11, 8l behind Take A Risk at Musselburgh 5f mdn lls, Gd-Fm.

3.15 SV RUTTER STAYERS HANDICAP 3YO 2m £3,599 (12 declared)

301 (5) -00130 Tommy Tortoise (19) Gay Kelleway 9-7 ... K Fallon 88
302 (3) 0320 Announcing (23) J Gosden 9-5 ... G Hind 88
303 (12) 521113 Ginger Rogers (16) (D) (BF) D Arbuthnot 9-0 ... J Quinn 89
304 (2) 0400 Lighten Up (9) C Brittain 8-9 ... — —
305 (11) 063561 Monarch's Pursuit (34) T Easterby 8-9 ... J Carroll 84
306 (1) 362053 Arisaig (8) P Calver 8-7 ... K Darley ★ 85
307 (8) 641314 Pen Friend (36) (D) W Haggas 8-3 ... F Lynch 88
308 (6) 142454 Skelton Sovereign (11) R Hollinshead 8-1 ... N Carlisle 87
309 (4) 500320 Dallas Bay (11) M W Easterby 7-13 ... Dale Gibson 88
310 (10) 00034 Classical Dance (26) (BF) Mrs M Reveley 7-11 ... L Charnock ●90
311 (6) -00250 Strathan Gold (11) Mrs M Reveley 7-10 ... J Lowe 88
312 (7) 016000 Mammma (8) Enrico Incisa 7-10 ... Kim Tinkler 85
Betting: 4-1 Ginger Rogers, 5-1 Arisaig, 6-1 Pen Friend, 7-1 Monarch's Pursuit, Classical Dance, 8-1 Tommy Tortoise, Announcing.

FORM GUIDE - Tommy Tortoise: Behind final 9f, 9th of 10, 31l behind Renzo at Kempton 1m 6f hcap, Gd. Announcing: Prominent, ridden over 3f out, weakened over 2f out, 9th of 18, 28l behind Thopla at Bath 1m 4l mdn, Gd. Ginger Rogers: Always prominent, led over 4f out until well over 1f out, one pace, 3rd of 16, 6l behind Cibumel News at Nottingham 2m hcap, Gd-Fm. Monarch's Pursuit: Always close up, led over 3f out, ran on under pressure, won at Musselburgh 1m 4f Stakes, Gd, beating Grate Times by 1½l. Arisaig: Chased leaders, ridden and drifted left final 2f, one pace, 3rd of 18, 7l behind Sioned Imaculate at Nottingham 2m 3y hcap, Gd-Fm. Pen Friend: Chased leaders, ridden over 4f out, one pace, 4th of 11, 6l behind Amarge at Ripon 2m hcap, Gd-Fm. Skelton Sovereign: With leaders, effort over 4f out, weakened over 1f out, 4th of 7, 8l behind Ziggy's Viola at Catterick 1m 6f sell, Gd-Fm. Dallas Bay: Tracked leaders, driven along halfway, lost place 4f out, 11th of 15, 28l behind Principe at Catterick 2m hcap, Gd-Fm. Classical Dance: Headway over 4f out, one pace final 2f, 4th of 9, 4¾l behind Certain Magic at Haydock 1m 4f amats hcap, Gd-Sft.

3.45 BOLLINGER CHAMPAGNE SERIES HANDICAP (GENTLEMAN AMATEURS) 1m £3,022 (16 declared)

401 (4) 6000-0 Maple Bay (J158) (CD) B Ellison 8-12-0 S Durack (4) 84
402 (7) 322-00 Xylem (14) L Cumani 6-11-13 ... C Bausan (4) 85
403 (13) 306100 Alpine Hideaway (5) (D) M W Easterby 4-11-12 ... K R O'Ryan 87
404 (9) 631240 Jack Flush (66) (D) B Rothwell 3-11-7 ... J Goldstein 78
405 (6) 332310 Needle Match (28) J J O'Neill 4-11-4 ... C Bonner ●90
406 (8) 201421 Euro Sceptic (14) (D) T Easterby 5-11-0 ... A Balding ★ 81
407 (11) 431000 Murphy's Gold (48) (D) R Fahey 6-10-10 C Bassell (4) 81
408 (12) 012532 Mezzoramio (13) (D) K Morgan 5-10-10 B Foster (4) ★ 82
409 (15) 100000 Birchwood Sun (18) (C) M Dods 7-10-7 T McCarthy ★ 83
410 (10) 502258 Keep Batting (J6) J Goldie 7-10-6 ... O McPhail 83
411 (16) 045400 Thatched (38) (CD) R Barr 7-10-3 ... T Comerford (4) 84
412 (3) 460650 Chinour (9) (C) (D) E Alston 9-10-3 ... B J Crawley 81
413 (1) 030000 Miletrian City (2) Miss L Perratt 4-10-1 ... — ★ 80
414 (14) 050606 King Of Show (59) R Allan 6-9-10 ... Y Lalouchek (4) 78
415 (2) 00/00 Peticco (44) P Beaumont 5-9-7 ... J Owen (4) —
416 (5) 056085 Ternoon (35) (D) Miss L Perratt 4-9-7 ... Y Lalouchek (4) —
Betting: 7-2 Euro Sceptic, 5-1 Mezzoramio, 7-1 Keep Batting, 8-1 Jack Flush, Murphy's Gold, Thatched, 10-1 Alpine Hideaway, Needle Match.

FORM GUIDE - Maple Bay: Never better than mid-division, 17th of 23, 16l behind Artful Dane at Doncaster 1m hcap, Gd-Fm. Xylem: Prominent, every chance 3f out, outpaced final 2f, 7th of 14, 8l behind Gymcrak Flyer at Yarmouth 1m hcap, Fm. Alpine Hideaway: Never near to challenge, 8th of 17, 10l behind Durasl at Haydock 1m hcap, Gd. Needle Match: Always behind, virtually pulled up, 21st of 22, well behind Thorbee at York 1m hcap, Sft. Euro Sceptic: Headway over 2f out, led well inside final furlong, all out, won at Beverley 1m hcap, Gd-Fm, beating Mbulwa by a shd. Murphy's Gold: Tracked leaders, effort over 2f out, soon lost place, 11th of 14, 15l behind Manpana at Beverley 7f amat hcap, Gd. Mezzoramio: Made most until headed well inside final furlong, 2nd of 18, 1¾l behind Be Warned at Yarmouth 6f hcap, Gd-Fm. Birchwood Sun: Chased leaders, ridden 2f out, gradually weakened, 9th of 19, 12l behind Gymcrak Premiere at Yarmouth 7f sell, Gd-Fm. Keep Batting: Held up, effort over 2f out, stayed on, never able challenge, 6th of 12, 6l behind High Spirits at Ripon 1m 1f hcap, Gd-Fm. Thatched: Hampered start, effort 2f out, ridden over 1f out, one pace, 7th of 17, 3¾l behind Mytons Mistake at Beverley 7f hcap, Gd-Fm.

4.15 PRICE WATERHOUSE LIMITED STAKES 7f £3,388 (5 declared)

501 (3) 15RR1 Rock Falcon (20) (B) Lady Herries 4-9-4 ... Dean McKeown ★ 81
502 (1) 400616 Mujova (4) (C) (D) R Hollinshead 3-9-0 ... A Culhane 85
503 (4) -26500 Shamanic (14) S Woods 5-9-0 ... K Fallon 86
504 (2) 500000 Young Bigwig (16) J Berry 3-8-12 ... K Darley ★ 88
505 (5) 630235 Arruhan (74) P Walwyn 3-8-9 ... R Hills ●90
Betting: 5-2 Mujova, 3-1 Arruhan, 4-1 Rock Falcon, Young Bigwig, 9-2 Shamanic.

FORM GUIDE - Rock Falcon: Made all, clear over 3f out, very easily, won at Chepstow 1m sell, Gd, beating The Executor by 4l. Mujova: Headway 2f out, not clear run inside last, one pace, 6th of 15, 3l behind Nominator Lad at Haydock 7f hcap, Gd-Fm. Shamanic: Not clear run over 2f out, switched left, never near to challenge, 9th of 18, 7l behind Mytons Mistake at Sandown 7f hcap, Gd-Fm. Young Bigwig: Never near to challenge, 8th of 13, 6l behind Prends Ca at Haydock 6f hcap, Gd. Arruhan: Held up, headway 3f out, one pace final 2f, 5th of 10, 5l behind Divina Luna at Warwick 7f stks, Gd-Fm.

4.45 BERNARD HATHAWAY RETIREMENT HANDICAP 5f £3,745 (20 declared)

601 (2) 232104 Sharp Pearl (7) (D) P R Webber 4-10-0 ... F Lynch ★ 89
602 (5) 214603 Lady Sheriff (7) (CD) M W Easterby 6-10-0 T Lucas ★ ●90
603 (18) 226030 That Man Again (7) (D) (BF) S C Williams 5-9-13 ... K Darley ★ 89
604 (20) 032003 Squire Corrie (8) (D) D Chapman 5-9-11 ... K Fallon 88
605 (12) 111210 Garstall (13) (D) (BF) N Tinkler 4-9-10 ... D Holland 88
606 (3) 1-5244 Ballymote (124) (D) (BF) J Berry 3-9-7 ... P Fessey (3) 80
607 (16) 053532 Saint Express (5) (D) Mrs M Reveley 7-9-6 A Culhane 88
608 (14) 256000 Danny (11) (D) J Glover 6-9-6 ... T Pengilsungs (7) ★ 86
609 (6) 000110 Just Bob (5) (D) (BF) S Kettlewell 8-9-2 Dean McKeown 85
610 (10) 430011 Mon Bruce (6) (7lb ex) (D) M Dods 3-8-8 ... J Carroll 78
611 (17) 432501 Johayro (5) (D) J Goldie 4-8-3 ... T Williams 87
612 (4) 030000 U-No-Harry (7) (D) R Hollinshead 4-8-0 ... N Carlisle 88
613 (7) 006000 Just Dissident (6) (D) R Whitaker 5-8-0 ... — 84
614 (11) 5-0002 Jucea (6) (D) J Spearing 8-7-13 ... J Quinn 86
615 (9) 630000 Insider Trader (48) (D) B Rothwell 6-7-13 ... Iona Wands (5) ★ 80
616 (15) 122520 Camionneur (6) (BF) T Easterby 4-7-12 L Charnock ★ 84
617 (8) 400060 Bollin Harry (10) (C) (D) T Easterby 5-7-11 ... D Wright ★80
618 (1) 110005 Lillibella (6) (D) Mrs J Ramsden 4-7-11 ... J Lowe 85
619 (13) 000-05 Another Episode (13) (D) Miss L Perratt 8-7-10 ... — 84
620 (19) 301000 Dona Filipa (16) (D) Miss L Siddall 4-7-10 ... F Norton 74
Betting: 8-1 Saint Express, Johayro, 10-1 Squire Corrie, Mon Bruce, Jucea, Camionneur, 12-1 Lady Sheriff, Ballymote, Just Bob, Lillibella.

FORM GUIDE - Lady Sheriff: Chased leaders, ridden over 1f out, ran on well final furlong, 3rd of 13, 1l behind Swan At Whalley at Chester 5f hcap, Gd. Squire Corrie: Led until caught close home, 3rd of 7, nk behind Fassy Gnmes at Haydock 5f hcap, Gd-Fm. Garstall: Chased leaders, not quicken final 2f, 8th of 25, 4¾l behind Just Bob at Ayr 5f hcap, Gd-Sft. Ballymote: Led to 2f out, weakened just inside final furlong, last of 4, 4¾l behind Bramble Bear at Catterick 5f hcap, Gd-Fm. Saint Express: Always with leaders, kept on under pressure final 2f, 2nd of 17, hd behind Johayro at Redcar 6f app hcap, Fm. Mon Bruce: With leaders, led over 1f out, held on towards finish, won at Pontefract 5f hcap, Gd-Fm beating Jucea (rec 1lb) a neck, always chasing leaders, kept on well inside final furlong. Johayro: Made most, held on well, won at Redcar 6f app hcap, Fm, beating Saint Express by a hd. Insider Trader: With leaders until weakened over 1f out, 7th of 14, 6l behind Boretsia at Beverley 5f hcap, Gd-Sft.

5.15 E.B.F. CALDERPRINT MAIDEN STAKES 2YO 6f £3,420 (5 declared)

1 (4) 22 Elhabub (41) (BF) B Hills 9-0 ... R Hills ●90
2 (3) 0 Lucayan Indian (11) D Loder 9-0 ... K Fallon 86
3 (5) Rol Brisbane M Johnston 9-0 ... D Holland —
4 (1) 00 Holy Smoke (18) J Eyre 8-9 ... K Darley —
5 (2) 00 Intuitive (28) J Eyre 8-9 ... S Buckley (7) —
Betting: 1-3 Elhabub, 9-2 Lucayan Indian, 11-2 Rol Brisbane, 25-1 Holy Smoke, Intuitive.

FORM GUIDE - Elhabub: Tracked leader, led after 2f until over 2f out, no chance with winner, 2nd of 7, 8l behind Bintang at York 6f 2y mdn, Gd. Lucayan Indian: Never near leaders, 10th of 19, 11l behind Poly Blue at Newbury 6f 2y mdn, Gd-Fm. Rol Brisbane: Rol Danzig colt, half-brother to several winners including the very useful pair Rockamundo and Idamal. Holy Smoke: With leaders until weakened 2f out, last of 8, 21l behind City Honours at Doncaster 1m 2y mdn, Gd-Fm. Intuitive: Prominent over 4f, 14th of 16, 23l behind Bullion at Haydock 1m 2y mdn auct, Gd-Sft.

5.45 PRICE WATERHOUSE MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES (DIV 2) 2YO 7f £2,239 (12 declared)

1 (10) 0 Arab Gold (13) Miss S Hall 8-9 ... K Fallon 80
2 (7) 500 Salatos (13) W McKeown 8-9 ... K Fallon 74
3 (12) Silver Prince J Carr 8-9 ... M Kennedy —
4 (11) 00 Zillion (23) J W Payne 8-9 ... —
5 (8) 5 Glory of Love (11) J Hetherton 8-6 ... Dean McKeown 86
6 (5) Strategic Air E Weymes 8-6 ... J Quinn —
7 (4) 0 Adeste Fideles (26) M Bell 8-4 ... D Holland —
8 (3) Megred J Eustace 8-4 ... G Hind —
9 (2) 050 Ladyofdistinction (14) J Wainwright 8-1 ... F Lynch ●90
10 (9) 04 Misalliance (14) C Wall 8-1 ... R Mullen (5) —
11 (6) 0 Celestial Welcome (32) Mrs M Reveley 7-12 ... Dale Gibson —
12 (1) 0064 Double Appeal (37) J H Wilson 7-12 ... — 70
Betting: 11-4 Megred, 7-2 Misalliance, 5-1 Arab Gold, Adeste Fideles, 8-1 Glory Of Love, 12-1 Strategic Air, Celestial Welcome.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

Jockeys	1st	Runs	%	Level St	Trainers	1st	Runs	%	Level St
K Darley	32	220	14.5	-69.45	M Johnston	26	159	16.4	-2.73
J Weaver	25	130	19.2	+23.60	J Berry	23	163	14.1	-46.84
J Carroll	22	168	13.1	-42.01	M Reveley	17	166	10.2	-71.88
K Fallon	17	139	12.2	-27.24	Mrs Ramsden	13	149	8.72	-79.11
G Duffield	18	102	15.7	+5.02	J Dunlop	12	41	29.3	+1.20
J Fortune	13	142	9.2	-58.87	J Gosden	9	26	34.6	+7.91
W Ryan	12	59	20.3	-8.31	M Bell	9	41	22.6	-8.05

Salisbury runners and riders

	CHRIS HAWKINS	TOP FORM
2.00	Gunzells	Ivory League
2.30	Ashby Hill	Thatchmaster
3.00	Deterrent	Deterrent (nb)
3.35	Flying Harold	Always Grace
4.05	Tarry	Wildes
4.35	Classic Impact	Courteous

Right-handed loop course for races of 1¾m plus. Run-in of 7f forms part of nearly straight mile.
Going: Good to Firm. ★ Denotes blinkers.
Draw: High numbers have a slight advantage.
Long distance travellers: All Newmarket runners, 151 miles.
Seven day winners: None.
Blinkered first time: 3.00 Flaming Ember & 4.05 Doyenne. Visored: None.
Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. J.Jumps.

2.00 E.B.F. AUTUMN MAIDEN STAKES 2YO 7f £4,426 (20 declared)

1 (12) 000 Arctic Star (6) M Channon 9-0 ... R Perham
2 (14) Boreas Hill J Arnold 9-0 ... C Lowther (5)
3 (10) Gleaming Hill M Stoute 9-0 ... J Reid
4 (7) Hunt Hill M Prescott 9-0 ... G Duffield
5 (13) 0 Long Island (65) R Hannon 9-0 ... D Biggs
6 (4) 06 Lucky Double (9) R Hannon 9-0 ... Dane O'Neill
7 (3) 0 Magic Powers (14) G Balding 9-0 ... S Drowne
8 (19) My Pledge C Horgan 9-0 ... M Fenton
9 (9) Pressurise M Prescott 9-0 ... C Rutter
10 (6) 0 Rhapsody In Blue (42) A Turnell 9-0 ... N Adams
11 (20) 50 Salty Hill (76) I Balding 8-9 ... S Whitworth
12 (5) 03 Gunzells (44) H Candy 8-9 ... C Rutter
13 (18) 00 Heiress of Meath (23) M Usher 8-9 ... J Marshall
14 (16) Honey Suckle Gay Kelleway 8-9 ... A Whelan (3)
15 (17) In The Sun J Dunlop 8-9 ... T Quinn
16 (8) 0 Ivory League (21) G Lewis 8-9 ... M Day
17 (7) 040 Jonathan's Girl (91) J Bridger 8-9 ... A Daly (3)
18 (2) Kitoph E Dunlop 8-9 ... D O'Donohoe
19 (11) 00 La Lyonnese (42) J Hills 8-9 ... M Henry (3)
20 (15) 00 Surprise Cara (63) G Lewis 8-9 ... T Sprake
Betting: 7-2 Gleaming Hill, 5-1 In The Son, 7-1 Hunt Hill, Gunzells, 8-1 Kitoph, Ivory League, 10-1 Pressurise, 12-1 Lucky Double, Honey Suckle.

2.30 FONTHILL HANDICAP 1m 2f £3,464 (18 declared)

1 (3) 361540 Pay Homage (20) I Balding 9-9-12 ... L Masterson (7)
2 (12) 330000 Alarmist (20) R Charlton 3-9-8 ... K Parsons (7)
3 (11) 1-3564 Seattle Alley (137) (D) P R Webber 4-9-9 ... R Perham
4 (2) -43014 Thatchmaster (16) (D) (BF) C Horgan 6-9-9 ... D O'Donohoe
5 (7) 00003 Serendipity (11) (D) B Millman 4-9-6 ... M Fenton
6 (4) -12403 Missfortuna (9) (D) M Prescott 3-9-5 ... G Duffield
7 (5) 430163 Monument (20) (C) (D) J King 5-9-5 ... R Havlin (3)
8 (1) 051054 Haroldon (22) (D) B Palling 8-9-4 ... T Sprake
9 (14) 365500 Ashby Hill (14) (CD) R Rowe 6-9-4 ... G Carter
10 (18) 424160 Bakers Daughter (16) (D) J Arnold 5-9-3 ... C Lowther (5)
11 (15) 010530 Allahrail (14) R Johnson Houghton 4-8-13 ... J Reid
12 (17) 402145 Absolute Utopia (8) N Berry 4-8-13 ... L Dettori
13 (6) 033000 Tissue Of Lies (47) R Akehurst 4-8-13 ... T Quinn
14 (10) 000- Timothy George (338) G Balding 3-8-13 ... S Drowne
15 (13) 000650 Sea Danzig (8) J Bridger 4-8-9 ... N Adams
16 (8) /6000- Dieto (J367) R Baker 5-8-8 ... V Slattery
17 (9) 200000 Absolutelystunning (8) (D) Mrs B Waring 4-8-8 ... D O'Shea
18 (16) 000 Borrador (81) R Curtis 3-7-11 ... N Varley
Betting: 9-2 Absolute Utopia, 11-2 Monument, 13-2 Thatchmaster, 7-1 Missfortuna, Allahrail, 8-1 Ashby Hill, Seattle Alley, 10-1 Alarmist, Haroldon.

3.00 CRANBORNE CONDITIONS STAKES 2YO 6f £4,461 (7 declared)

1 (2) 331154 Pichon Baron (14) B Meehan 9-6 ... G Hannon (7)
2 (4) 10355 Bold Edge (11) (D) R Hannon 9-1 ... Dane O'Neill
3 (5) 0221 Deterrent (16) (D) J Gosden 9-1 ... L Dettori
4 (6) 215 Social Charter (42) (CD) P Chapple-Hyam 9-1 ... J Reid
5 (3) 16 Toblersong (21) (D) R Akehurst 9-1 ... T Quinn
6 (1) 312350 Flaming Ember (11) B Meehan 8-12 ... G Duffield ★
7 (7) 00040 Regale (58) D Hyde 8-12 ... R Havlin (3)
Betting: 6-4 Deterrent, 11-4 Bold Edge, 4-1 Social Charter, 6-1 Toblersong

3.35 AXMINSTER 100 APPRENTICE H'CAP 6f £2,722 (18 declared)

1 (6) 741500 Out Line (27) (D) M Madgwick 5-9-10 ... A Eddery (3)
2 (15) 554010 Walk The Beat (9) (D) M Meade 7-9-9 ... Claire Angell (5)
3 (13) 3060- Corporal Nym (360) M R Bosley 4-9-8 ... R Studholme (5)
4 (2) 50-510 Supreme Thought (27) (CD) (BF) L Cottrell 5-9-6 G Milligan
5 (14) 644000 Tart And A Half (7) M Pitman 5-9-8 ... A Nicholls (5)
6 (7) 352600 Scissor Ridge (7) (D) J Bridger 5-9-5 ... R Brisland (5)
7 (3) 620030 Pointer (8) (CD) Mrs P Dutfield 5-9-3 ... Aimee Cook
8 (1) 005400 Xenophon Of Cunaxa (6) (D) M Fetherston-Godley 4-9-3 ... C Lowther ★
9 (5) 000-5 Prix de Clermont (188) G Lewis 3-8-13 ... J Dennis (5)
10 (4) 56500 Double March (13) K Ivory 4-8-9 ... G Faulkner
11 (17) 0-6446 Always Grace (83) (D) Gay Kelleway 5-8-9 ... Jo Hunnam (3)
12 (10) 106640 Superlao (43) J Bridger 5-8-7 ... D Williams (5)
13 (3) 664005 Robellion (14) (D) D Arbuthnot 6-8-6 ... J Wilkinson (3)
14 (16) 000000 Mellors (15) (D) M Heaton-Ellis 4-8-5 ... A Daly (3)
15 (18) 640502 Flying Harold (7) (D) M Channon 4-8-4 ... A Polli
16 (13) 103046 Mister Raider (13) (D) E Wheeler 5-8-2 ... B O'Leary (10) ★
17 (11) 000542 Dorado Beach (43) L Cottrell 3-8-1 ... R Winston (3) ★
18 (8) -31070 Tommy Tempest (23) R Peacock 8-7-11 ... P Fitzsimons (5) ★
Betting: 5-1 Flying Harold, 8-1 Scissor Ridge, 10-1 Walk The Beat, Supreme Thought, Robellion, Dorado Beach, 12-1 Out Line, Always Grace, Superlao, Mister Raider, 14-1 Pointer, 16-1 Tart And A Half, 20-1 Tommy Tempest, 25-1 Xenophon Of Cunaxa, Double March, 33-1 Prix De Clermont, 50-1 Corporal Nym.

4.05 HURDLERS CLAIMING HANDICAP 1m 6f £2,626 (13 declared)

1 (11) 641340 Sovereign Crest (14) C Horgan 4-9-12 ... S Whitworth ★
2 (13) 305012 Wildes (6) (CD) R O'Sullivan 8-9-12 ... J Reid
3 (1) 565-10 Tarry (14) Gay Kelleway 4-9-10 ... L Dettori
4 (8) 402600 Rose Of Glenn (4) (D) B Palling 6-9-9 ... T Sprake
5 (2) -46465 Golden Melody (34) M Heaton-Ellis 3-9-6 ... R Perham
6 (3) 020562 Ronquista d'Or (11) G Ham 3-9-4 ... S Drowne
7 (7) 042422 Perlethorpe (35) (BF) M Bell 3-9-4 ... M Fenton
8 (9) 3160 Kika (16) K Burke 4-9-4 ... Dane O'Neill
9 (12) 5050- Mu-Tadil (J188) R Baker 5-9-2 ... V Slattery
10 (10) 463440 Nomax Lad (16) (D) M Meade 9-9-0 ... R Havlin (3) ★
11 (6) 060200 Sirat's Legacy (12) D Arbuthnot 10-9-0 ... N Adams
12 (4) 00000 Doyenne (61) G Lewis 3-8-7 ... M Day ★
13 (5) 000063 Saltimbanco (J16) R Akehurst 3-8-0 ... A Daly (3)
Betting: 3-1 Wildes, 5-1 Perlethorpe, 7-1 Sovereign Crest, Tarry, Nomax Lad, 8-1 Ronquista D'or, 10-1 Saltimbanco, 12-1 Golden Melody, 16-1 Rose Of Glenn, 25-1 Sirat's Legacy

4.35 E.B.F. MARLBOROUGH MAIDEN STKS 2YO 1m £3,981 (14 declared)

1 (11) Ballykissann D French Davis 9-0 ... S Drowne
2 (6) 00 Blue Monk (28) I Balding 9-0 ... S Whitworth
3 (10) Classic Impact P Chapple-Hyam 9-0 ... J Reid
4 (5) 4 Courteous (37) P Cole 9-0 ... T Quinn
5 (9) Elhayq J Dunlop 9-0 ... G Carter
6 (14) 0 First Master (13) Gay Kelleway 9-0 ... A Whelan (3)
7 (7) 5 Grand Slam (13) R Hannon 9-0 ... Dane O'Neill
8 (6) 00 Lyclan (14) Sir M Prescott 9-0 ... G Duffield
9 (2) Majestic Hills J Dunlop 9-0 ... L Dettori
10 (1) 004 Smiling Voter (16) R Hannon 9-0 ... R Perham
11 (13) Topaz J Hills 9-0 ... M Henry (3)
12 (12) 65 Twoforten (6) M Madgwick 9-0 ... N Varley
13 (4) Cynical R Charlton 8-9 ... T Sprake
14 (3) Flying Clouds M Blanshard 8-9 ... P P Murphy (3)
Betting: 3-1 Elhayq, 4-1 Classic Impact, 9-2 Courteous, 6-1 Smiling Voter, 10-1 Grand Slam, 14-1 Blue Monk, Majestic Hills.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

Jockeys	1st	Runs	%	Level St	Trainers	1st	Runs	%	Level St
Pat Eddery	28	133	21.1	-12.69	R Hannon	41	344	11.9	-71.11
L Dettori	26	109	23.9	+33.43	J Dunlop	20	130	15.4	-46.19
T Quinn	24	156	15.4	-41.88	I Balding	17	123	13.8	-36.53
J Reid	24	176	13.6	-41.60	R Charlton	16	87	18.4	-24.19
Dane O'Neill	15	121	12.4	-30.99	P Cole	15	105	14.3	-40.28
R Hughes	14	93	15.1	-21.56	J Gosden	12	52	23.1	+15.53
T Sprake	13	143	9.1	-64.76	P Chap-Hyam	10	42	23.8	-1.67

Results

GEORGE DUFFIELD, who returned at Wolverhampton yesterday after being sidelined with a bout of measles, picked up a three-day ban from October 9 for careless riding on third-placed Forcing Bid in the Gordon Crowe Classic Handicap.

● IAN BALDING'S Merlin's Ring (Olivier Peslier) won the Criterium des Yvelines (6f) at Maisons-Laffitte yesterday by two and a half lengths from Uninhibited.

NEWMARKET

12.50 (7f): 1, GOLDEN FORTUNE, M Henry (5-1 fav); **2, Belle de Nuit** (11-1); **3, Inchalong** (20-1). 15 ran. 1, 4. (D Loder) Tote: £8.60; £2.50, £2.90, £4.00. Dual F: £61.40. Trio: £254.50. CSF: £50.01. Tricast: £958.69.

1.30 (7f): 1, TAMARISK, T Sprake (5-4 fav); **2, Sapphire Ring** (7-1); **3, Putuna** (33-1). 13 ran. 3½, 5. (R Charlton) Tote: £2.30; £1.60, £2.30, £7.80. Dual F: £5.60. Trio: £74.90. CSF: £8.81. NR: Ziolana Gora.

2.00 (6f): 1, EMBASSY, K Fallon (5-2); **2, Crazee Mental** (16-1); **3, Royal Shyness** (16-1). 11-8 fav Cape Verdi. 8 ran. 2½, 1½. (D Loder) Tote: £3.60; £1.10, £2.40, £3.90. Dual F: £22.40. CSF: £38.58.

2.40 (1m 4f): 1, SOLO MIO, M Hills (8-1); **2, Kilma** (7-2 jt-fav); **3, Danse Se Belle** (7-2 jt-fav). 10 ran. 2½, ½. (B Hills) Tote: £9.40; £2.20, £1.90, £2.00. Dual F: £18.20. Trio: £23.80. CSF: £38.35. Tricast: £123.91.

3.10 (1m 2f): 1, FLINT KNAPPER, G Milligan (3-1 fav); **2, Matthew** (7-1); **3, Polar Prospect** (9-2). 14 ran. Sh hd, nk. (G Wragg) Tote: £3.30; £1.90, £2.90, £2.60. Dual F: £18.10. Trio: £26.70. CSF: £23.27. Tricast: £92.84.

3.45 (1m): 1, SUCCESS AND GLORY, K Fallon (11-10 fav); **2, Way Out Yonder** (3-1); **3, Jamorin Dancer** (16-1). 6 ran. 5, 4. (H Cecil) Tote: £2.10; £1.10, £1.10, £4.00. Dual F: £2.20. CSF: £3.78.

JACKPOT: £7,100.00. £1,839.82 carried over to Newcastle today.
PLACEPOT: £60.50. QUADPOT: £6.90.

WOLVERHAMPTON

2.25 (5f): 1, BLUE KITE, T G McLaughlin (Evens fav); **2, Love Again** (6-1); **3, Mary Jane** (16-1). 13 ran. 1½, 2½. (N Littmoden) Tote: £1.50; £1.10, £1.60, £4.50. Dual F: £2.30. Trio: £26.20. CSF: £6.60.

3.00 (1m 100yds): 1, COLINS CHOICE, P Bradley (7-2 fav); **2, Van Chino** (10-1); **3, Lady Silk** (20-1). 13 ran. 3½, ½. (J Spearing) Tote: £4.50; £1.60, £2.30, £9.10. Dual F: £24.90. Trio: £233.80. CSF: £34.36.

3.30 (1m 6f 166yds): 1, ONEFOURSEVEN, T Williams (11-4 fav); **2, Batoutofthebiue** (11-2); **3, Vresana** (12-1). 12 ran. 4, 1½. (J Eyre) Tote: £2.50; £1.60, £1.50, £3.90. Dual F: £12.30. Trio: £49.00. CSF: £15.46. Tricast: £145.46.

4.05 (6f): 1, STATE OF CAUTION, C Lowther (14-1); **2, Malibu Man** (5-1 fav); **3, Forcing Bid** (6-1). 13 ran. ¾, 1½. (D Shaw) Tote: £9.20; £2.60, £2.20, £3.00. Dual F: £34.30. Trio: £165.40. CSF: £74.05. Tricast: £448.40.

4.40 (6f): 1, MALOZZA, J F Egan (13-2); **2, Satie** (8-1); **3, Kite** (7-2 fav). 13 ran. 2, 6. (P Evans) Tote: £12.10; £5.90, £2.20, £2.00. Dual F: £51.90. Trio: £36.00. CSF: £59.96.

5.10 (1m 100yds): 1, BAPSFORD, M Batchelor (4-1 fav); **2, Portite Sophie** (8-1); **3, Eastleigh** (25-1). 13 ran. 1½, 3½. (G L Moore) Tote: £4.30; £2.60, £1.60, £5.90. Dual F: £29.60. Trio: £86.80. CSF: £35.82.

5.40 (1m 1f 79yds): 1, FARMOST, G Duffield (8-4 fav); **2, Rutland Chantry** (7-1); **3, Sedan** (16-2). 13 ran. 3½, 6. (M Prescott) Tote: £2.00; £1.10, £2.50, £9.10. Dual F: £9.60. Trio: £52.20. CSF: £12.38. Tricast: £65.21.
PLACEPOT: £58.10. QUADPOT: £19.70.

SEDGEFIELD

2.15 (2m 1f Hdle): 1, ALBEMINE, A Maguire (3-1); **2, Bellrel** (8-1); **3, Brambles Way** (4-6 fav). 6 ran. 4, sh hd. (P Eccles) Tote: £3.50; £1.60, £1.80. Dual F: £9.70. CSF: £22.55.

2.50 (2m 5f 110yds Hdle): 1, SHARP COMMAND, A Maguire (7-2); **2, Name of Our Father** (11-10 fav); **3, Red Jam Jar** (7-2). 5 ran. 1, 4. (P Eccles) Tote: £5.60; £2.90, £1.10. Dual F: £5.40. CSF: £7.72.

3.20 (2m 5f Ch): 1, SUAS LEAT, E Callaghan (1-3 fav); **2, Kings Minstrel** (7-1); **3, Whitegates Willie** (4-1). 5 ran. 6, nk. (J Jefferson) Tote: £1.40; £1.10, £2.50. Dual F: £1.90. CSF: £3.25. NR: Hacketts Cross, Meesonette.

3.55 (2m 5f Ch): 1, PENNYBRIDGE, A P McCoy (3-1); **2, Lochnagrain** (8-15 fav); **3, The Toaster** (12-1). 4 ran. 5, 3½. (I Ferguson) Tote: £3.50. Dual F: £2.10. CSF: £5.11. NR: Newhall Prince.

4.30 (2m 5f 110yds Hdle): 1, MONACO GOLD, P Niven (4-6 fav); **2, Red Neck** (5-1); **3, Poppy's Dream** (16-1). 8 ran. 3, 2. (Mrs M Reveley) Tote: £1.80; £1.40, £1.10, £1.10. Dual F: £3.40. CSF: £4.67.

5.00 (2m 1f Hdle): 1, SUPERPRIDE, P Niven (15-8 fav); **2, Noble Tom** (5-2); **3, Mudlark** (10-1). 9 ran. 5, 4. (Mrs M Reveley) Tote: £3.00; £1.10, £2.20, £2.30. Dual F: £5.50. Trio: £14.60. CSF: £7.41.
PLACEPOT: £78.30. QUADPOT: £32.00

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The Guardian INTERACTIVE

Uefa Cup: first round, second leg

Arsenal 1, PAOK Salonika 1 (agg: 1-2)

Arsenal defence crumbles at the last

Martin Thorpe

DESPITE all the foreign parts bolted on to their British chassis, Arsenal found the highways of Europe too tricky to negotiate last night. For the second season running they went off the road in the first round, losing to a Salonika side for whom an away goal scored three minutes from time by Zisis Vrizas proved decisive.

Collecting the ball 25 yards out he sidestepped Lee Dixon and Tony Adams to shoot home from the edge of the area and nullify a brilliant solo goal by Dennis Bergkamp in the first half.

Arsenal had come into this second leg with a lot of hard work to do after a disjointed performance in Greece, where they had hardly created a chance against a team whose threat on the ball had caught many English observers by surprise.

These included Arsenal's defenders, whose normally watertight offside trap sprung a rare leak and allowed Salonika's most dangerous player Konstantinos Fratzeskos to score the goal that gave his side their first-leg victory.

Arsenal also stuttered going forward, with Bergkamp's absence particularly notable as his struggling team-mates tried without success to recreate the same dynamic link between midfield and attack.

The youngster Nicolas Anelka played well as a rookie replacement for the Dutchman but the chemistry between him and Wright was O-Level standard compared to the PhD understanding between Arsenal's all-time top scorer and Bergkamp.

Last night's game began bittily but gradually the Arsenal midfield began to settle down and exert some grip on the match.

Emmanuel Petit fed Bergkamp in the area with a wonderful 30-yard ball he just failed to control, but the maestro soon made amends. Adams's persistence on the right wing won the ball for Arsenal near the halfway line and the captain passed it astutely down the channel to Bergkamp.

The Dutch international made contact with the ball about 30 yards out on the right and immediately slipped into gear. He cut inside, reached the Salonika area, glided past Anastassios Tasiopoulos and drilled a low left-foot shot inside Nikos Michopoulos's far post.

It was yet another class goal from a class player, bringing Arsenal level on the tie and reminding them of what they had so badly missed in Greece. Bergkamp might have scored again after 37 minutes, when his fierce 20-yard shot was blocked on the line. The Salonika keeper then twice dived to his right to produce flying one-handed saves from Petit and Ray Parlour, both shooting from about 25 yards.

Until Theodoros Zagorakis unleashed a 20-yard shot straight at David Seaman four minutes into the second half the Arsenal keeper had hardly been troubled, but 15 minutes later minutes Vrizas raced into the area and Adams felt obliged to bring him down, an unneccessary foul for which he earned a booking which will put him out of Arsenal's next European game.

An away goal for the Greeks was a disastrous prospect which continually preyed on Arsenal minds, especially as they had still to score an important second goal. Bergkamp again went close when Parlour on the right found him 20 yards out, but after a slick turn he blasted over the bar.

Dixon, not for the first time, then found himself in the Salonika area, played in again by Parlour, but the full-back shot at the keeper. The miss was costly, as Vrizas was to demonstrate.

Arsenal (4-4-2): Seaman; Dixon, Bould, Adams, Winterburn; Parlour, Vieira, Petit, Parlour; Bergkamp, Wright.

PAOK Salonika (4-4-2): Michopoulos; Zagorakis, Kolobourdas, Tasiopoulos, Olivares; Toursounidis, Nagbe, Zafiriou (Sidiropoulos, 33min), Velis; Vrizas, Fratzeskos.

Referee: M Pirauz (Belgium).

No Greek gifts . . . Arsenal's winger Overmars finds his progress halted by the Salonika defender Zagorakis at Highbury last night PHOTOGRAPH: MIKE HEWITT

Leicester City 0
Atletico Madrid 2
(agg: 1-4)

Juninho crushes Leicester spirit

David Hopps

LEICESTER'S energy and passion were unstinting but the quality of Atletico Madrid finally quashed their challenge. From the moment Juninho put the Spanish side ahead with 19 minutes remaining, Leicester were bound for disappointment. Kiko added a second goal three minutes from time; as Leicester desperately chased the game there might have been more.

Leicester's labours in their 2-1 defeat at the Vicente Calderon Stadium had sharpened their belief, but if they required any indication of the size of their task Atletico supplied it within the first five minutes.

When Kiko's turn and lob came back off the bar the left-back Delfi Geli had his header blocked by Matt Elliott. Christian Vieri then found himself unmarked eight yards from goal, only for Kasey Keller to block his shot.

With Steve Walsh injured and Ian Marshall required up front, Julian Watts returned from a month's loan at Crewe for Leicester's first European night for 26 years when Atletico's 1-1 draw at Filbert Street knocked them out of the Cup Winners' Cup. It was a hair-raising occasion and, unlike his shaven-headed defensive partners, he still had plenty of it on show.

Muzzy Izzet was a potent threat for Leicester and had legitimate claims for a penalty when he was tripped by Geli, but if the referee was unconvinced, perhaps Izzet had played a part; his flagrant dive over Andrei Frascarelli's challenge earlier did not suggest he was a reliable witness.

Neither was Juan Lopez, booked for play-acting when play was 60 yards away in Leicester's penalty area, Vieri completing a half of missed opportunities by shooting hastily wide from Kiko's pass.

The extent of Lopez's folly became evident as a reckless challenge on Marshall caused him to be dismissed for a second bookable offence after 50 minutes.

The tie looked in Leicester's grasp until 18 minutes into the second half. Garry Parker's first-half booking had arisen from a trivial disagreement and had certainly been forgotten by the referee, who brandished a yellow card when he took a free-kick before the whistle, then had to change it to red.

Leicester were increasingly short-staffed at the back. Nineteen minutes from time Atletico scored, Juninho's crisp left-foot volley at the far post, from Jose Mari's cross, racing past Keller.

Leicester City (3-1-4-2): Keller; Prior (Collins, 77min), Elliott, Watts (Savage, 64); Kaamark; Parker, Izzet, Lennon, Guppy; Marshall (Fenton, 80), Heskey.

Atletico Madrid (4-3-1-2): Molina; Lopez, Santi, Frascarelli, Geli; Caminero (Vizcaino, 72), Bejbl, Landin; Juninho; Vieri (Jose Mari, 64), Kiko.

Referee: R Harrel (France).

Aston Villa 0, Bordeaux 0 (after 90 minutes)

Forward-thinking Little

Peter White

ASTON VILLA and Bordeaux produced a tense but entertaining match at Villa Park last night. Despite chances for both teams there were no goals at the end of 90 minutes, forcing the tie into extra-time.

After the goalless draw in France two weeks ago, Villa's manager Brian Little was only too aware of the need to penetrate the well-organised Bordeaux defence as quickly as possible. So he opted to play Savo Milosevic as an extra forward alongside Stan Collymore, with Dwight Yorke operating just behind the front two.

That meant Little had gambled by leaving only two recognised midfielders to combat the five that Bordeaux strung across the middle of the field. The deficiencies quickly became apparent as the visitors defended in numbers and counter-attacked at speed.

After an early effort by Yorke had been gathered on the line by Ulrich Rame, Mark Bosnich kept Villa in contention with three excellent saves in seven minutes.

First he dived acrobatically to his right to scramble a shot from Lilian Laslandes round a post; then he clawed away a clever curling left-footed effort from Johan Micoud, before racing out of his goal to smother a dangerous break from Sylvain Wiltord.

After their uncertain start Villa gradually gained confidence, but their biggest failure was the inability of their wing-backs, Fernando Nelson and Alan Wright, to deliver meaningful crosses, despite time and space.

Milosevic's trickery invariably came to an abrupt end once he reached the solid wall of Bordeaux defenders on the edge of the area. Meanwhile Collymore was desperately trying to respond to chants of his name from the crowd.

There was one flash of Collymore inspiration in the 25th minute, when he glided past three defenders before hitting a right-foot shot from 25 yards which Rame gathered at the foot of a post. Ian Taylor's 36th-minute caution, for a foul on Micoud, means he will miss Villa's next European match.

After the interval Villa played with greater authority and dominated possession, but they still created few clear-cut chances. A muted penalty appeal was ignored by the Danish referee Knull Fisker after Nelson charged into the area and fell under the challenge of Kodjo Afanou.

When Rame was penalised for taking too many steps Villa should have done better with the free-kick. But Steve Staunton, taking a return from Yorke, shot too high.

A rare error in the Bordeaux defence, with Pavon the guilty party, allowed Milosevic a run on goal. But with Collymore waiting unmarked, the Serb tried to work his way through two defenders and tamely lost possession.

Aston Villa (5-2-1-2): Bosnich; Nelson, Ehiogu, Staunton, Southgate, Wright; Taylor, Grayson; Yorke; Milosevic, Collymore.

Bordeaux (3-5-2): Rame; Gralak, Afanou, Savelijic; Wiltord, Diabate, Pavon, Micoud, Grenet, Laslandes, Papin (Musampa, 63).

Referee: K Fisker (Denmark).

Eijkelkamp earns holders easy passage

RENE EIJKELKAMP scored twice in five minutes during the second half as the Uefa Cup holders Schalke 04 completed a 5-2 aggregate first-round victory over Hajduk Split.

The German side, with the cushion of a 2-0 lead from the home leg, came from behind twice to win 3-2 against the Croatians, who had taken the lead through Kazimir Vulic in the 20th minute.

Although the Belgian international striker Marc Wilmots levelled the match score within a minute, Dean Racunica gave Hajduk a 2-1 half-time lead which Eijkelkamp overturned.

Udinese powered into the second round with a 3-1 aggregate win over Widzew Lodz, whose 1-0 first-leg lead was wiped out in the first minute by the German striker Oliver Bierhoff. That goal was created by Paolo Poggi, who added a second after a fine run, and the substitute Tomas Locatelli completed the scoring in the 89th minute.

Rangers 1, RC Strasbourg 2 (agg 2-4)

French polish off Rangers

Patrick Glenn

RANGERS were knocked out of a European competition for the second time within five weeks last night — they lost in Champions League qualifying to Gothenburg in August — and Rino Gattuso's splendid goal seemed merely to intensify the pain of elimination.

That 12th-minute strike nullified Strasbourg's 2-1 lead from the first leg but it was the last moment of promise shown by the Ibrox side. In the end they were clearly second best, even after Strasbourg's Cristophe Kinet was dismissed during the second half.

Rangers took the lead just as their opponents had begun to look a better team than the one that had won on home soil. They were comfortable in possession and made quick, menacing breaks from midfield.

There was a crispness about their tackling and passing which had not been evident two weeks ago, and they should have scored in the fourth minute.

Denni Conteh, a strong and skilful lone striker, eluded two defenders on the right and delivered a low centre into the six-yard box, but Kinet failed to apply the finishing touch.

At the other end Brian Laudrup created an opening for Marco Negri with a quick turn and cross from the right but Godwin Okpara's header denied the Italian.

Then Rangers took the lead. Raphael Miceli had tried to release Conteh with a long pass from defence but the ball rebounded from Stuart McCall straight to Laudrup, who played it to Gattuso on the left.

The Italian teenager drove into the penalty area on the left, beating Alexander Vencel with a terrific low left-foot shot to the goalkeeper's left from 12 yards.

Strasbourg deservedly equalised in the 36th minute. David Zitelli, who had replaced Miceli in the 18th minute, delivered a cross from the left which Staale Stensaas missed. Gerald Baticle, the French captain who had scored both goals from penalties in the first leg, drove the ball low and hard past Goram from 10 yards.

Rangers now needed to score two goals, and just after half-time that had increased to three when Zitelli, Strasbourg's leading scorer, struck. Stephane Collet swept a low, curling cross towards the six-yard box and Zitelli slid in ahead of Sergio Porrini to beat Goram left-footed from six yards.

Soon afterwards Strasbourg were reduced to 10 men when Kinet, having been cautioned for a first-half foul on Negri, took Paul Gascoigne's feet and the Austrian referee showed the red card.

It was, until then, the only moment in which the England midfielder had shown himself to be anything like a threat.

Rangers (4-4-2): Goram; Cleland, Porrini, Bjorklund, Stensaas, McCall, Gascoigne, Gattuso, Laudrup, Durie, Negri.

RC Strasbourg (1-4-4-1): Vencel; Suchoparek, Raschke, Okpara, Dacourt, M'ghoghi; Baticle, Collet, Miceli (Zitelli, 18), Kinet; Conteh.

Referee: F Stuchlik (Austria).

Houston is top manager

STEWART HOUSTON of QPR has won the First Division Manager of the Month award for September, with Northampton's Ian Atkins taking the Second Division award and Notts County's Sam Allardyce the Third.

Coventry are hoping to sign the Real Madrid midfielder Sandro on loan until the end of the season.

Team talk

The independent news and reports service

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Results

Football

UEFA CUP

First round, second leg

Arsenal (1) 1 — **PAOK Salonika** (0) 1
Bergkamp 22 — Vrizas 86
(agg: 1-2) — 37,962

Leicester (0) 0 — **Atletico Madrid** (0) 2
20,776 — Juninho 72, Kiko 88
(agg: 1-4)

Liverpool (0) 0 — **Celtic** (0) 0
(agg: 2-2) — 30,205

Rangers (1) 1 — **RC Strasbourg** (1) 2
Gattuso 11 — Baticle 35, Zitelli 49
10,145
(agg: 2-4)

Anorthosis Famagusta 1, Karlsruhe SC 1 (2-3); *Hajduk Split 2, Schalke (Bdrs) 3* (2-5); Alania Vladikavkaz 1, MTK Budapest 1 (1-4); Dynamo Tbilisi 1, MPKC Mozyr 0 (2-1); *Spartak Moscow 2, Sion 2* (3-2); 1860 Munich 6, Jazz Pori 1 (7-1); Udinese 3, Widzew Lodz 0 (3-1); Lillestrom 1, Twente Enschede 2 (2-2, Twente win on away goals), Hapoel Petah Tikva 1, Rapid Vienna 1 (1-2); Fenerbahce 1, Steaua Bucharest 2 (1-2); Sporting Braga 2, Vitesse Arnhem 0 (3-2); Orebro 1, Rotor Volgograd 4 (1-6); Club Bruges 3, Betar Jerusalem 0 (4-2); Metz 4, Excelsior Mouscron 1 (6-1); Brondby 2, Lyon 3 (3-7); Grasshoppers 0, Croatia Zagreb 5 (4-9).

COCA-COLA CUP

Second round, second leg

Barnsley (2) 4 — **Chesterfield** (0) 1
Liddell 37, Redfearn 44, Lormor 59 (pen), Sheridan 65. Hristov 84
(agg: 6-2) — 8,417

Bolton (2) 4 — **Leyton Orient** (2) 4
Blake 8, 35, McGinlay 65 (pen), *Gunnlaugsson 85* — Inglethorpe 7, Griffiths 17, Baxter 55, *Warren 90*
(agg: 7-5) — 8,444

Brentford (0) 0 — **Southampton** (2) 2
3,957 — Le Tissier 31, 44
(agg: 1-5)

Bristol City (1) 2 — **Leeds** (1) 1
Goodridge 41, Taylor 61 — Hasselbaink 8
(agg: 3-4) — 10,857

Carlisle (0) 0 — **Tottenham** (1) 2
13,571 — Ginola 43 (pen), Armstrong 51
(agg: 2-5)

Preston (1) 1 — **Blackburn** (0) 0
Barrick 15 — 11,472
(agg: 1-6)

QIS VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Halifax 2, Leek Tn 1; Woking 4, Dover 0.
GUARDIAN INSURANCE CUP: First round: Oxford C 4, Braintree Tn 1.
UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier Division: Accrington Stanley 1, Lancaster 1; Spennymoor 0, Frickley 0. Postponed: Runcorn v Barrow; Chorley v Marine.
ISTHMIAN LEAGUE: Premier Division: Aylesbury 1, Dag & Red 2; Bishop's Stortford 2, Bromley 3; Dulwich 3, Chesham 1; Harrow Bor 1, Boreham Wood 0.
N-W COUNTIES LEAGUE: Second Division: Cheadle Tn 1, Oldham Tn 1.
PONTINS LEAGUE: First Division: Man C 2, Grimsby 2. Second: Rotherham 2, Shrewsbury 2; Sheff Utd 0, Burnley 4.
NATIONWIDE GOLD CUP: Section A: Dungannon Swifts 4, Larne 0.

Rugby Union

CLUB MATCHES: Cambridge Univ 45, Cambridge C 10; Northampton 51, Loughborough Stdts 13; UWIC 7, Cardiff 49.

Tennis

ATP CLAY-COURT TOURNAMENT (Palermo): First round: R Fromberg (Aus) bt N Lapentti (Ecu) 6-1, 6-7, 6-3; V Spadea (US) bt M Valeri (It) 2-6, 6-4, 6-0; F Clavet (Sp) bt D Sanguinetti (It) 6-3, 6-1, H Gaviy (Arg) bt H Dreekmann (Ger) 6-3, 7-6; M Filippini (Uru) bt G Blanco (Sp) 6-1, 6-2; K Alami (Mor) bt A Gaudenzi (It) 6-3, 2-0; D Pescariu (Rom) bt D Scala (It) 7-5, 6-3; J Sanchez (Sp) bt H Arazi (Mor) 7-5, 6-3, J Alonso (Sp) bt G Schaller (Aut) 6-4, 6-7, 7-5.
ATP TOURNAMENT (Basle). First round: F Santoro (Fr) bt R Lavergne (Fr) 6-3, 6-3; M Norman (Swe) bt A Olhovskiy (Rus) 7-6, 0-7, 6-4; L Roux (Fr) bt P Haarhuis (Neth) 6-3, 6-3; W Ferreira (SA) bt B Steven (NZ) 6-7, 6-1, 7-5, K Kucera (Slovak) bt G Ivanisevic (Cro) 6-4, 6-3; C Moya (Sp) bt T Haas (Ger) 6-4, 3-6, 6-4; Y Kafelnikov (Rus) bt L Manta (Switz) 6-1, 7-6.
ATP CHINA OPEN (Beijing): First round: J Stark (US) bt GI Stafford (SA) 7-5, 6-3, L Paes (Ind) bt A Rotchol (US) 6-4, 3-6, 6-3, A O'Brien (US) bt S Draper (Aus) 3-6, 6-4, 7-5; C Wilkinson (GB) bt P McEnroe (US) 4-6, 6-2, 7-6, J Courier (US) bt A Rodulescu (Ger) 6-3, 6-4; J Krodiak (Slovak) bt R Reneberg (US) 3-6, 6-3, 7-6; J Gimelstob (US) bt M Tebbutt (Aus) 4-6, 6-3, 6-4.
LTA SATELLITE (Nottingham). First round (GB unless stated): K Cross bt A Mikkors (Neth) 6-7, 6-2, 6-2; K Kanter (Ger) bt V Davies 6-1, 6-1; M Joubert (SA) bt L McDonald 6-4, 6-4; L Lattimer bt E Le Bescond (Fr) 6-2, 6-2; L Ahl bt M Martina (Rus) 6-2, 6-0; L Parkies bt L Ogan 6-2, 6-3; N Collin bt M Persson (Swe) 7-5, 6-1; A Wainwright bt M Wolfbrandt (Swe) 6-4, 6-3; T Musgrave (Aus) bt J Rolf (Swe) 5-7, 6-3, 6-1; N Pepee bt J Lutrova (Rus) 6-3, 6-4; K Billett bt C Coombs 7-5, 6-3; J Ward bt M Rasmussen (Den) 6-2, 6-2; N Egorova (Rus) bt H Crook 6-2, 6-3; E Dyrberg (Den) bt K Warne-Holland 2-2 ret; L Cartwright bt S Olsen (Den) 4-6, 6-2, 7-5; B Loegen (Ger) bt L Woodroffe 3-6, 7-5, 6-4.

American Football

NFL: San Francisco 34, Carolina 21.

Basketball

EUROPEAN CUP: K K Beobanka 76, London 65.
EUROLEAGUE: Group A: CSKA Moscow 71, Maccabi Tel Aviv 63. Group C: Partizan Belgrade 79, Hapoel Jerusalem 59.

Cricket

SECOND ONE-DAY MATCH: Karachi: Pakistan 265-4 (Inzamamul Haq 74no, Shahid Afridi 72). India 265-8 (S Ganguly 60, V Kambli 53) India won by four wickets.

Snooker

REGAL MASTERS (Motherwell): First round: A Stokman (Scot) bt M Williams (Wales) 5-4.

Fixtures

Football

(7.30 unless stated)
EUROPEAN CUP: Champions' League: Group B: Man Utd v Juventus (7.45). Group C: Dinamo Kiev v Newcastle (7.45).
COCA-COLA CUP: Second round, second legs: Coventry v Blackpool (0-1 from first leg, 7.45); Derby v Southend (1-0, 7.45); Everton v Scunthorpe (1-0, 8.0). Millwall v Wimbledon (1-5, 7.45); Sheff Wed v Grimsby (0-2, 7.45).
FA CUP QUALIFYING: Second round replays: Bishop Auckland v Chorley; Farsley Celtic v Guiseley.
UNIBOND LEAGUE: Challenge Cup: First round: Bamber Bdge v Gretna; Bradford PA v Lincoln Utd; Whitby Tn v Harrogate Tn.
N-W COUNTIES LEAGUE: First Division: Prescot Cables v Chadderton.
NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier Division: Hallam v Maltby MW.
ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTHERN LEAGUE: First Division: Billingham Syn v Consett; Billingham Tn v Durham C; Northallerton v Seaham RS.
PONTINS LEAGUE: Premier Division: Birmingham v Leeds (7.15); Preston v Aston Villa (7.0). First Division (7.0): Oldham v Notts Co; Port Vale v Leicester; Sunderland v Huddersfield (Durham C). Second Division (7.0): Barnsley v Bradford, Carlisle v Rochdale; Wrexham v Lincoln; York v Stockport. Third Division (7.0): Chester v Chesterfield; Scarborough v Walsall; Wigan v Doncaster.
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First Division: Charlton v C Palace (2.0); Ipswich v Oxford Utd (7.0); Portsmouth v Swindon (7.0); Watford v Arsenal (7.30, Northwood); Wimbledon v QPR (2.0, Plough Lane).
U-16 INTERNATIONAL: Rep of Ireland v France (F Cooke Pk).
FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE: National Division: Doncaster v Liverpool (8.0).

Rugby Union

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Surrey v Sussex (Imber Court).

Basketball

EUROLEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP: Group B: PAOK Salonika v Estudiantes Madrid. Group D: Teamsystem Bologna v AEK Athens.
BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Leopards v Sheffield.

Tottenham join competition for Prosinecki

ROBERT PROSINECKI, the £2 million-rated Croatia Zagreb international midfielder, has confirmed reports that Newcastle United are chasing him and revealed that Tottenham too are interested in his signature, *writes Martin Thorpe.*

Tottenham's search for a midfielder prompted speculation this week that they had made a £4.8 million offer for Bolton's Alan Thompson, despite a firm denial from the Wanderers manager Colin Todd.

Prosinecki said: "It would be no problem for me to settle in England after my long experience of living in Spain."

The Everton full-back Andy Hinchcliffe, recalled to the England squad this week, will sign a new four-year contract with the club after tonight's Coca-Cola Cup match against Scunthorpe.

Everton's rising star Danny Cadamarteri has been named in England's Under-18 squad for their Uefa Championship preliminary-round match against Yugoslavia in Loznica on October 11.

Barnet yesterday signed the striker Scott McGleish from Leyton Orient.

Coca-Cola Cup, 2nd round, 2nd leg

Carlisle 0, Tottenham 2 (agg: 2-5)

Scales helps Armstrong tip balance in Spurs' direction

Andy Wilson

ON THEIR only previous visit to Brunton Park, back in August 1974, Tottenham lost 1-0 and within a week Bill Nicholson had resigned as their manager. A similar result last night and the pressure on Gerry Francis to follow suit would have increased towards irresistible proportions, but Spurs were good value for their win.

They took the lead just before half-time, although the goal came courtesy of a puzzling penalty which infuriated the home crowd to such an extent that the referee was struck on the nose by a missile as he left the field.

Like the half itself, a cross from the right seemed to be fading away harmlessly when Jeff Winter pointed to the spot after 43 minutes, apparently for a foul by Will Varty on Les Ferdinand. Andy Couzens and the goalkeeper Tony Caig were booked for their protests before David Ginola, booed from the start after spending the past two seasons 50 minutes along the A69 at Newcastle, hit his first goal for Tottenham.

Ginola was a constant threat down the left, and might easily have scored twice by then. First he was put clear by Sol Campbell only for Winter to stop play for a Spurs free-kick. Then, midway through the half, he appeared to be held back by Richard Prokas on the edge of the box.

Prokas had already been booked but on this occasion Winter ruled that Ginola had dived. The Frenchman then ended the half being booked himself for abusing a linesman, but the only real worry to Spurs had been when the young striker Matt Hansen's shot on the turn just missed the top corner.

Michael Knighton, Carlisle's chairman and now effectively manager, had talked in a local newspaper of needing a JCB to move "all the bull talked about coaching in football". However, the four-man defence on which he insists was alarmingly exposed early in the second half, a strong run from the back by John Scales setting up a sitter for Chris Armstrong.

Carlisle United (4-3-3): Caig; Barr, Varty, Pounewatchy, Archdeacon; Harrison, Couzens (Dobie, 77), Prokas; McAlindon (Boertien, 77), Jansen, Aspinall.

Tottenham Hotspur (4-4-2): Walker; Carr, Campbell, Scales, Vega; Ginola (Dominguez, 83), Calderwood, Clemence, Fox; Armstrong, Ferdinand.

Referee: J Winter (Middlesbrough).

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Football: Champions League

Group B: Manchester United v Juventus

United look to Giggs for inspiration

David Lacey on a daunting task tonight for Ferguson's under-strength team

MANCHESTER United's finances laid another golden egg yesterday, although tonight in the Champions League Alex Ferguson's team will be treading on eggshells of a more fragile kind. Annual pre-tax profits at Old Trafford may have leapt by 79 per cent but if United again plunge into the red against Juventus their balance sheet in Europe will begin to wear a familiar look of foreboding.

While United were winning 3-0 in Kosice a fortnight ago Juventus beat Feyenoord 5-1 and became even firmer favourites to win Group B. If the Italian side avoid defeat this evening, and even more so if they repeat last November's victory at Old Trafford, it will take a lot to stop them reaching the quarter-finals.

With only the two best-placed of the six runners-up going through this season, United's fall-back position is less secure than last time when they lost three of their group games but still qualified for the last eight. Ferguson knows that anything less than victory tonight will be bad news for his chances of adding the Champions League to his lengthy list of managerial honours.

It is not the best time, then, to be going into a match with Roy Keane a likely absentee. The captain hurt a knee in Saturday's match at Leeds, where United were beaten for the first time this season, and with the joint still swollen his prospects tonight look slim.

But Nicky Butt, who was not risked at Elland Road because of a dead leg, will be fit to face the combined French might of Zinedine Zidane and Didier Deschamps in the Juventus midfield. And Ryan Giggs, whose inspiration on the left wing came so close to turning the match against Juventus 10 months ago, is back after straining a hamstring.

Juventus, however, having twice defeated United last season, have not lost to English opposition since a late goal from Arsenal's Paul Vaessen in Turin eliminated them from the 1979-80 Cup Winners' Cup. More pertinently, they have lost only once in 13 Champions League group matches.

Tonight they will come on in much the same old way. Yet again Juve have parted company with two of their strikers, Alen Boksic and Christian Vieri following Gianluca Vialli and Fabrizio Ravanelli out of the club, but without altering their way of playing; except that the present pairing of Filippo Inzaghi, signed from Atalanta in the summer for £8.5 million, and Alessandro Del Piero may be even better equipped to take on the United centre-backs, and especially Gary Pallister, for pace and perception.

Inzaghi was the leading scorer in Serie A last season with 24 goals. So far this season he has scored three times for Juventus in four Italian League games and found the net once against Feyenoord.

"From what I've seen of the lad his only thought is to score," Ferguson said yesterday. "Both of the Juventus front players now are very sharp and very quick. This is the only real difference in the team. Their previous strikers were stronger physically."

Ferguson's needs sounded simple enough. "We have to score on our own ground," he said, "and if we can do that we've got a good chance."

Last season it was a failure to snap up opportunities which at one time looked like preventing United reaching the knockout stage, and after the problem was apparently solved with a 4-0 victory over Porto in the quarter-finals, missed chances cost them dear when they met Borussia Dortmund for a place in the final.

It seems likely that today Teddy Sheringham and Ole Solskjaer will be asked to take on Ciro Ferrara and Paolo Montero, the Juventus centre-backs, in the hope that Giggs, Paul Scholes and David Beckham will also find space and time within scoring range.

Juventus have Angelo Di Livio suspended and Antonio Conte struggling with an injury. Zidane and Deschamps look like being flanked by Alessio Tacchinardi and Fabio Pecchia.

At this early stage in the Champions League the Italian team will play it tight, but Zidane will not have forgotten how he ruled the first half of last season's match at Old Trafford, and United will need to remember, from Turin a year ago, how easily a goal can be lost to this class of opposition.

Manchester United (probable; 4-4-2): Schmeichel; G Neville, Berg, Pallister, Irwin; Beckham, Butt, Scholes, Giggs; Sheringham, Solskjaer.
Juventus (probable; 4-4-2): Peruzzi; Birindelli, Ferrara, Montero, Dimas; Pecchia, Deschamps, Zidane, Tacchinardi; Inzaghi, Del Piero.
Referee: A Lopez Nieto (Spain).

In the line-up . . . Faustino Asprilla, who missed Newcastle's match on Saturday, is back in the frame with a young fan before yesterday's flight to Kiev

Group C: Dynamo Kiev v Newcastle United

Dalglish safe and sounding off

Michael Walker finds Newcastle taking chicken to Kiev and grouse from the manager

THE information greeting the foreign visitor here is only partly reassuring. "Scientists," it says, "generally accept that the city is now safe for normal length tourist visits." But, 11½ years on, the effects of the melt-down at Chernobyl are clearly still features of Ukrainian life.

Ninety minutes do not constitute even a "normal length" visit, but it was a large Newcastle United party who arrived into cool Kiev sunshine yesterday lunchtime. Also on board were the trappings of the modern Western football club travelling east: 4,000lb of chickens, fish and mineral water, plus two chefs. Kiev, after all, is only 40 miles south of Chernobyl.

Poverty, nationalism and the importance of football in a newly independent state are a cocktail that Newcastle experienced on their last European trip, to Zagreb in the second qualifying round. Yet yesterday morning Kenny Dalglish appeared uninterested in nuclear fall-out and its significance for a concrete-and-sex economy in post-soviet eastern Europe and instead had a go at the Football Association. His complaint was familiar — that there are too many games in England — and echoed Arsène Wenger's views of Monday.

Dalglish, however, went further than the Arsenal manager when he said: "This situation has been thrown at us since the start of the season and we can't even get Saturday's game against Tottenham moved to Sunday. We will have to look at our position when it comes to releasing players for internationals. If the FA can't help club sides, club sides might not be able to help the FA. It's catch-22."

The outburst was provoked by the realisation that Dynamo Kiev had not played since last Friday — a very friendly 1-1 draw with Chernomorets — whereas tonight's game will be Newcastle's fifth in a fortnight.

The first in that sequence was Barcelona, and anything like a repeat of the opening hour at St James' Park would suffice here. Then again, on that same night this Kiev team, which forms the bulk of a Ukrainian national squad who lie second to Germany in their World Cup group, were winning 3-1 in Eindhoven. For either side, victory this evening would put them in a commanding position.

It will be Kiev's first Champions League match at home for two years as in October 1995 they received a two-year ban (later reduced to one year) after it was discovered that they had attempted to bribe the referee in a game against Panathinaikos. Kiev won a legitimately officiated match 1-0 but they had already been reported for leaving $30,000 (£18,500) and two mink coats in a bag outside the referee's hotel room. The referee was also offered the services of prostitutes.

Now, having beaten Barry Town on the way, they are back, and of greater concern today is the suspension of their captain Yuri Kalitvintsev and his fellow midfielder Yuri Maximov.

They will, however, include the rising star of Ukrainian football, Andrei Shevchenko. Bryan Hamilton, the manager of Northern Ireland who are in the same group as Ukraine, said of Shevchenko, "He's like a young Alan Shearer," after the 21-year-old had scored the winner against the Irish in Kiev's Olympic stadium in April.

Shevchenko, said to be wanted by AC Milan, also scored against Eindhoven. Newcastle will clearly have to watch him but not just him because Kiev have another promising young goalscorer in Sergi Rebrov.

Newcastle's own hopes of a goal again lie chiefly with Faustino Asprilla, who has recovered from the stomach bug which caused him to miss the Chelsea match on Saturday. But Robert Lee, who also missed Chelsea, may not be fit. Warren Barton, Keith Gillespie and Temur Ketsbaia all await the Newcastle team sheet with interest.

Bell's ends Scottish League backing

Patrick Glenn

THE Scottish Football League lost its main sponsor yesterday when Bell's decided not to renew its current £6 million, four-year deal.

The distillers' decision was prompted by the uncertainty caused by the proposed secession from the league of the 10 Premier Division clubs. That threat is understood to have cost £8 million in sponsorship.

The present agreement is due to expire at the end of this season and it is believed that the League's negotiations had all but secured a rise of £2 million for the renewal.

But Bell's marketing director Andy Neal said: "Bell's entered the sponsorship with the offer of stability in a new era for the game and the attraction of associating with 40 clubs, in four divisions, throughout Scotland.

"The company had been close to agreeing a way ahead for the sponsorship with the League, but the announcement and follow-up news conferences with regard to the proposed breakaway have left it unclear exactly what we would be sponsoring."

The would-be separatists will meet the League's management committee today to put some meat on the bones of the proposals they made a few weeks ago. There has been dissatisfaction among the smaller clubs with what the top 10 have so far revealed of their plans.

If the top 10 have to go to law to secure their objectives, the uncertainty may be prolonged for a damagingly long period; and even if the proposed breakaway fails, it will be too late to resurrect Bell's interest in sponsorship.

Companies plan their marketing strategies years in advance and Bell's will now turn its attention and its millions elsewhere.

"It's a disappointment, of course,' said the League's secretary Peter Donald, "but it's a bit too early to panic."

True, the League has rarely had difficulty in finding sponsorship since commercialisation of the game began to grow in earnest 15 years ago. But it is unlikely that it will attract any investors until the breakaway issue is settled.

● Morton will name a new back-room team today. The First Division club's manager Allan McGraw has been offered the post of director of football in a major shake-up by the new owner Hugh Scott.

Rugby Union

Llanelli fight Euro fine

Robert Armstrong and Paul Rees

LLANELLI are refusing to pay a £20,000 fine — half of it suspended — meted out to them yesterday after a lengthy meeting of the European Rugby Cup directors in Dublin.

The Welsh club immediately announced that they would appeal against the fine, which has also been imposed on Pau, their hosts in a violent Heineken Cup match in France on September 13.

Pontypridd and Brive were each fined £30,000 last week for their part in a similarly violent game on September 14, also played in France.

"We are appalled," said Llanelli's chief executive Stuart Gallacher. "We do not accept the legality of the ERC's decision and we will challenge it. All our players did was stand up for themselves because they received no protection from the match officials."

"Justice has not been done," said another Llanelli board member. "A video of the evidence shows clearly that the violence was perpetrated by Pau players yet the two clubs have been fined the same amount. Our advice is that we would have an excellent case in court."

No more than £10,000 need be paid if Llanelli avoid further violent incidents before the tournament ends on January 31, but any substantial fine will deepen the financial crisis that has overshadowed the club for the past year.

They had expected to raise more than £400,000 from the issue of a member share offer, but days before the deadline they were reportedly still about £200,000 short. Their Stradey Park ground has already been sold to the Welsh Rugby Union for £1.25 million and the long-serving Ieuan Evans has been transferred to Bath for £75,000.

"It is a question of principle," said Llanelli's chairman Ron Jones. "Our decision has nothing to do with the financial problems we have been having. Our share offer has gone very well and we expect to raise close to the £430,000 we need to continue trading.

"The ERC has to operate under the law but it has lost complete control of any sense of moral balance. We have not breached any tournament rule."

Llanelli are angry that no action has been taken against Pau's scrum-half Frédéric Torossian. They claim he was involved in four incidents of grossly foul play: butting two opponents, stamping on another and kicking a fourth. And last season he was sent off for stamping when Pau played in Llanelli.

"I am amazed that the £2,000 fine supposedly imposed on him by Pau is considered sufficient punishment," said Gallacher. "He has clearly brought the game into disrepute."

The Scarlets, who currently lie second in Pool E behind Pau, spent most of yesterday trying to establish the procedure for their appeal, which should be heard before the 21-day deadline for payment of the fine runs out.

On Saturday Llanelli visit Treviso and seven days later they play host to Caledonia. One win from those games would be sufficient to see them into the quarter-final play-offs. Pau look set to reach the quarter-finals automatically.

Last weekend the return fixtures involving Pontypridd, Brive, Llanelli and Pau all passed off without violent incident, and other clubs appear to have got the message that indiscretions might cost them dear.

France drop Carbonneau

PHILIPPE Carbonneau, the scrum-half who was at the centre of the "battle of Brive" with Pontypridd, will be overlooked when France name their squad for next month's Latin Cup matches against Argentina, Italy and Romania.

The team manager Jo Maso said: "All the players were warned about discipline. We will be unbending in our attitude to behaviour on or off the pitch."

Carbonneau had his nose broken in an alleged barroom brawl with Pontypridd players after their European Cup match three weeks ago and the Welsh claimed that the Frenchman had started everything by head-butting during the match.

Philippe Saint-André will be recalled by France as captain if he proves his form in front of the selectors when his English club Gloucester play Béziers in the European Conference on Saturday.

"If Philippe proves he is fit and motivated then there is nothing to stop us recalling him as captain for the Latin Cup matches," said Maso.

Moseley's England A prop Nathan Webber has a case to answer, his club have decided after studying a video of an incident which led to his sending-off in Saturday's Allied Dunbar Premiership Second Division game against Exeter.

Webber allegedly kicked an Exeter player during a ruck.

Boxing

Eubank returns to the numbers game

Jack Massarik

CHRIS Eubank was talking multi-fight deals yesterday. It was just like old times. Three years ago it was a 10-fight package, this time nine. The promoter then was Barry Hearn, this time Frank Warren. Then and now the ball-park figure was £10 million. And then as now, a pressing little matter with the Inland Revenue was helping Eubank to make up his mind.

Now campaigning at light-middleweight, Eubank returns to a British ring on Saturday week for the first time in more than two years. He challenges the unbeaten Londoner Mark Prince in Sheffield for the WBO Inter-Continental title, with eight more fights to be arranged.

Frank Bruno is in the picture too. The former WBC heavyweight champion wants to work with Eubank, though whether as negotiator, trainer or cornerman is not clear.

● New York reports claim that Naseem Hamed will defend his WBO featherweight title against Kevin Kelley, a former WBC champion, at Madison Square Garden on December 19. Junior Jones defends his WBO light-bantamweight title against his fellow American Kennedy McKinney on the same bill, with the winners to meet at Wembley in July.

Rugby League

Maranta the trail-blazer

Andy Wilson

BARRY MARANTA, who yesterday left London Broncos in the hands of Richard Branson, is set to play a significant role in attempts to expand Super League through the British Isles.

Maranta, who helped to establish Brisbane Broncos as Australia's biggest club in the late Eighties, was in at the start of Super League when he hosted a group of Rupert Murdoch's executives at the World Club Challenge match between Brisbane and Wigan in the summer of 1994.

"I came to London because Rupert wanted something to happen here, and I know he will be delighted to have the marketing and promotional ability of Richard Branson and Virgin behind Super League," he said yesterday after Branson confirmed that he had increased his Broncos stake from 15 to 55 per cent and announced that he would be an active chairman of the club, founded by Maranta.

"But clearly Sky and Rupert are disappointed that Super League has not developed with similar success in other parts of the British Isles," Maranta said. "I still have my remaining interest in the Broncos to worry about, but not the least of my roles will be to look at the possible future expansion of Super League."

Maranta's son Michael will remain involved with London Broncos, his primary task being to develop a new stadium in west London where the Broncos are laying down roots with a schools development programme and paying Harlequins about £18,000 a game to rent The Stoop. The new stadium is thought to be a prerequisite for flotation on the Stock Exchange.

Bradford are expected today to announce the signing of Shaun Edwards from the Broncos less than six months after he moved south from Wigan for personal reasons.

Wigan's Tony Smith, meanwhile, will today have a final scan on the knee ligament he injured in Sunday's Premiership final, and the coach Eric Hughes fears it will reveal a tear which will keep the scrum-half out of Friday's World Club Championship quarter-final against Hunter Mariners and November's Tests against Australia.

Gary Connolly, moreover, suffered an Achilles strain on Sunday. "Gary's problem isn't so serious although he's still likely to be out on Friday," Hughes said.

● Widnes have transfer-listed 10 players after their relegation to the Second Division.

Cricket

India seek refuge from hail of stones

Rocky ground . . . India players look on as umpire Badar inspects a stone thrown from the crowd MUZAMMIL PASHA

FOUR India players were hit by stones thrown from the crowd during yesterday's one-day international against Pakistan in Karachi. The violence prompted India's captain Sachin Tendulkar to lead his players from the field.

Tendulkar refused to continue when Debahish Mohanty became the fourth player to be struck while fielding on the boundary. India declined to take the field again, citing security fears.

"I am more concerned about the security of my players; I can't continue under these circumstances," Tendulkar told the Sri Lankan match referee Ranjan Madugalle.

Mudugalle agreed to halt play, curtailing Pakistan's innings at 265 for four after 47.2 of their 50 overs. India were set a revised target of 266 from 47 overs, which they reached with three balls to spare to level the three-match series at one all.

Mudugalle had earlier persuaded Tendulkar to continue after Abey Kuruvilla, Nilesh Kulkarni and Saurav Ganguly were hit by stones. A total of 19 minutes' play was lost as a result of the disturbances.

Pakistan's coach Haroon Rashid blamed the trouble on excess ticket sales for the match. "The main problem was that tickets had been oversold and spectators got restless and threw something big at Ganguly," he said.

India's last tour to Pakistan, in 1989, was also marred by violence. A clash between spectators and police during the third one-day international in Karachi injured 30 people and damaged several vehicles.

Yesterday's trouble overshadowed some outstanding individual performances, not least by Ganguly, who made 89 and shared a 98-run stand with Kambli to help India to a four-wicket win. Inzamam-ul-Haq had been unbeaten on 74 when Pakistan's innings was stopped.

Police in Calcutta have made a further three arrests in connection with a betting ring suspected of fixing international matches with the help of leading players. Police have suggested that Sunday's one-day international between Pakistan and India might have been the target of match-fixing.

Embassy new Guineas favourite, page 13
Juninho ends Leicester hopes, page 14
India team pelted in Karachi, page 15
Llanelli rebel over fine, page 15

SportsGuardian

Celtic spirit comes to nothing

Uefa Cup, first round, second leg: Liverpool 0, Celtic 0 (agg: 2–2, Liverpool win on away goals)

Liverpool ride the storm

Ian Ross

THE great battle of Britain ended in a rather ungracious dogfight on Merseyside last night, Liverpool edging out Celtic only by virtue of their performance in Glasgow a fortnight earlier.

With hindsight it is probably fitting that Steve McManaman's remarkable goal at Parkhead should prove to be decisive. It levelled the score on that night and after a fraught evening at Anfield it proved sufficient to move Liverpool forwards into the next round of the Uefa Cup on the away-goals ruling.

How far Liverpool will progress, however, must be open to serious doubt for they were utterly wretched, landing just one shot on target all night.

A genuine sense of occasion was restored to the stadium for the first time with the partial reopening of the Anfield Road stand. Even so, it held only 3,000 people, all from north of the border, all no doubt rueing the lack of a roof. The effect must have been sobering, indeed.

The heavens over Merseyside had opened mid-morning and the rain was unrelenting, drenching the playing surface to such an extent that the opening exchanges were so frantic as to hold genuine comedic value. It was hell-for-leather stuff.

The afternoon had held much disappointment for the Celtic coach Wim Jansen, confirming that many of his better players would be absent through injury. Liverpool had been more fortunate, the return of Rob Jones at full-back permitting the manager Roy Evans another opportunity to assess the merits of the four-man defensive system he is increasingly loath to embrace.

A Celtic fan to the rear of the press box spent the opening 15 minutes berating his side for paying Liverpool undue respect. His words were lost in the din but he was probably correct in his assessment.

Liverpool played the long, first-time ball to such telling effect that Celtic were reduced to hanging on before they could even consider making a more positive contribution.

It was a war of attrition and one which Celtic were content to see extended deep into a fractured opening half, presumably in the belief that, if Liverpool's patience waned, so too would their sense of discipline.

The irony was that the first genuine opportunity — and a good one it was — fell to the Scots. Tosh McKinlay's enormous clearance after 20 minutes dropped just inside the penalty area, predictably enticing David James from his goal. As the goalkeeper rose to collect, he collided with his team-mate Stig Bjornebye, who was shaping to head clear. The ball fell in front of Simon Donnelly but, in his haste to strike an unprotected target, he lobbed high and wide. His right foot is normally more effective.

Liverpool's second let-off was not long delayed and merely served to re-emphasise that their football still lacks real authority and, until such time as it acquires some, they will remain vulnerable to those capable of squeezing the play in midfield.

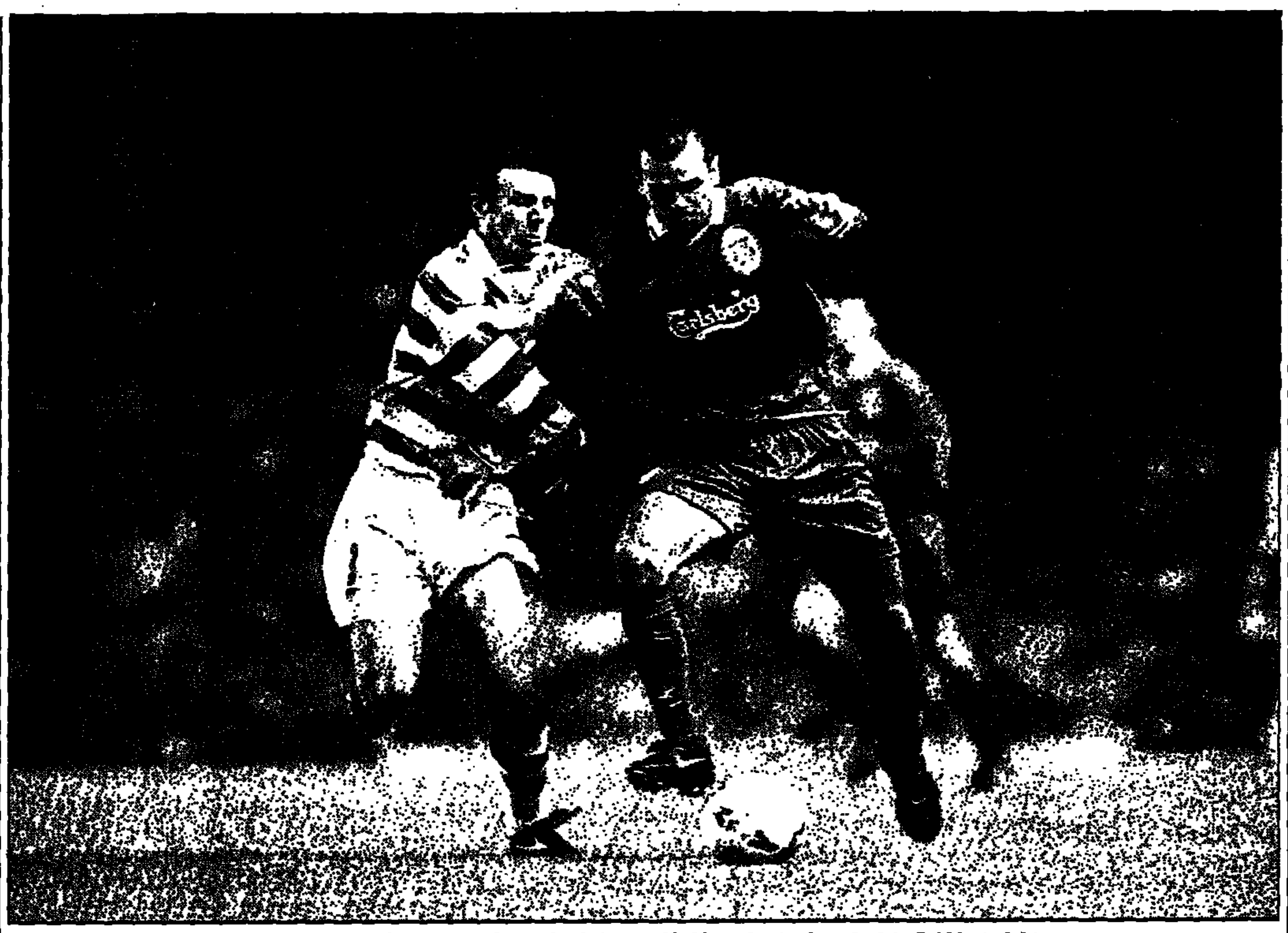
Morten Wieghorst's ferocious drive from 20 yards would certainly have found its way in had Bjornebye not thrown himself forwards to halt its progress. The Norwegian's clearance prompted only controversy, a posse of Celtic players surrounding the referee in the belief that they had been denied not by the forehead but an arm.

Celtic now showed greater belief that they could win and, as Liverpool began to funnel back, the suspicion grew that they would be happy to preserve the status quo and thus progress on the away-goals rule.

Their timidity and their thoughtless football infuriated all but the most partisan of their followers for here, unapologetically, was a team bereft of anything remotely resembling a worthwhile idea.

As the game raced towards its climax, Celtic's sense of desperation became understandably more pronounced and, as they moved forward, often and gamely, Liverpool at last began to find open doors in front of them.

Liverpool (4-4-2): James; Jones, Kvarme, Babb, Bjornebye, McManaman, Ince, Carragher, Berger; Owen, Fowler.
Celtic (3-5-2): Gould; McKinlay, Stubbs, Annoni; Hannah, McNamara, Burley, Wieghorst, Mahe; Donnelly, Larsson.
Referee: E Steinborn (Germany).



Battle of B . . . Berger of Liverpool has the edge over Burley of Celtic in a midfield tussle at a drenched Anfield last night PHOTOGRAPH: CLIVE BRUNSKILL

Coining it but short-changed up front

Paul Hayward

IT WAS probably just a coincidence that Manchester United yesterday announced a 79 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £27.6 million, 24 hours before Juventus bring their rhapsodic football back to Old Trafford. United are the biggest club in the world. The question is whether they can become the best.

With apologies to Kosice, United's European campaign starts here. Last autumn the English champions were beaten home and away by a Juventus team so laden with treasures that they had just off-loaded Fabrizio Ravanelli and Gianluca Vialli. But had the teams been kicking around balance sheets, United would have been five up by half-time.

If Juventus own the skills, United have got the tills. Their turnover (£87.9 million) is more than double Juventus's. Their average attendance is 10,000 higher and their wage bill 50 per cent lower; salaries account for only 25 per cent of United's income whereas in Turin they eat up half. Old Trafford is the site of an economic miracle as dazzling in its own way as what Juventus are capable of on the field.

The latest Deloitte & Touche review of football finance concludes that United are the most financially powerful club: "Both the Japanese J-League and South American leagues are relatively parochial compared to Europe and it is unlikely these clubs could match the global merchandising, sponsorship and other income sources of Manchester United."

Yesterday's announcement that the club's own television station — MUTV — will start broadcasting six hours of news and features next autumn will consolidate that lead. It also points the way to the end of the current BSkyB-Premier League deal. Once the technology and brand name are established, United are bound to want to sell exclusive coverage of home games to their domestic audience of 3.3 million far-flung souls.

United are now a concept as much as a club, football's Coca-Cola. Supporters' clubs are springing up in China. United's Far Eastern tours are strengthening their Asian market. Alex Ferguson may choke on his breakfast of iron filings but newspaper pictures of David Beckham and Ryan Giggs surrounded by cars and girls add to the mystique.

Ferguson must be watching the inflation of this balloon a little ambivalently. His directors have built a £500 million empire largely on his successes. He has handed them four league titles, including two Doubles, and travelled these islands persuading parents that their boy is best off in the club's impressive youth set-up. Whatever they are paying him, it's not enough.

Yet for all United's bank-stuffing wealth, one deficiency remains, a failing which paradoxically could be cured by the one thing they have plenty of: money. For all the wispy, peppery youths galloping through, United are without an Alan Shearer to perform the very last function on the club's vastly profitable production line.

Last season Shearer scored 27 league and cup goals for Newcastle. Ian Wright got 28 for Arsenal. United's top scorer was Ole Gunnar Solskjaer with 18. This year, so far, they haven't got a name in the top 20. Beckham, Roy Keane and Paul Scholes have all scored two, against 10 for Blackburn's Chris Sutton, nine for Dennis Bergkamp and eight for Wright. Not good enough, when Juventus or Real Madrid are in town.

A recurring memory is that United failed to score either home or away against last year's European Cup finalists, Borussia Dortmund and Juventus. This is one area where the Italian champions have a better grasp of numbers. In 1996 they got rid of Ravanelli and Vialli. This summer it was Christian Vieri and Alen Boksic. United, meanwhile, have given their fans angina by persevering with Andy Cole.

THE good news for supporters (and bad news for Cole) is that Ferguson now has £8 million extra in his war chest. Unless he spends it on a net-busting international centre-forward it is hard to imagine his team forcing their way to the final, even with a £28 million profit, half the England team in their side and their own TV channel.

Looking through the accounts is a disorientating experience so close to the end of the Ryder Cup, in which the 24 players were paid nothing for laying on one of the most compelling dramas in sport. United's economic fantasia showed what money can give, and the Ryder Cup reminded us just how much it can take away.

David Lacey, page 15
City, page 12

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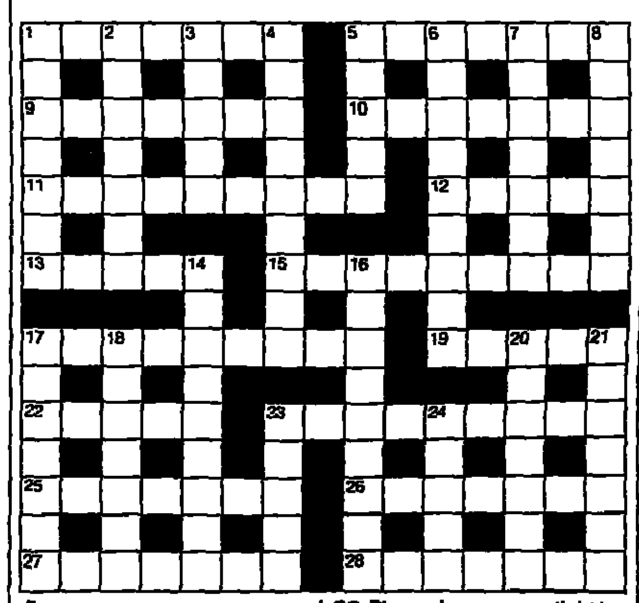
50 years of Magnum

G2 cover story

Guardian Crossword No 21,083

Set by Crispa

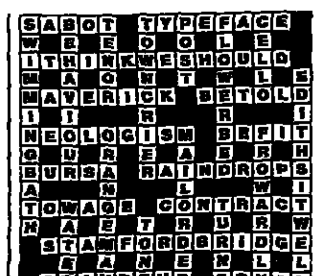


Across

1 Dicky can't, Max can be a little beast (4,3)
5 Brook no opposition when in office? (7)
9 Desert a Scotsman at a retreat (7)
10 Cooped up and content like a country bumpkin (7)
11 Never stop for change, so exceeded the budget (9)
12 Sound animal for a forested area of Eastern Europe (5)
13 Heartless woman, laid-back but organised (3,2)
15 Demanding it's sent — in error (9)
17 Disrespect shown only in hostelry and church (9)
19 The body language of the uncaring (5)
22 Burn to appear elegant (5)
23 Place where no-one tight is taken the wrong way (9)
25 A note written by expert will be most pleasant (7)
26 Many a mad character occasions talk (7)
27 People in the wrong can cause distress (7)
28 Landed with real trouble, that's true (7)

Down

1 Fields where birds hold a party (7)
2 To take ready-prepared food into the home is most efficient (7)
3 Kind about a young woman (5)
4 A player whose performance is no laughing matter (9)
5 Making notes on drug store (5)
6 Beats playing chess — accepts a drink (9)
7 Articles about opposing cereal production from sheer greed (7)
8 More weight to remove! (7)
14 Very agreeable associate on a board (9)
16 Reluctant to give credit (9)
17 There's not much time for pressing (7)
18 Less confident about the pitch, being the more dubious sort (7)
20 May be composed or tries to be merry (7)
21 No particular top man (7)
23 The high-minded person keeps very little — the sucker! (5)
24 Not taken into account for a bit (5)



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